THE COMPLETE CELLIST

BOOK ONE

a concise two-volume edition of the internationally famous method by RUDOLF MATZ
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FOREWORD

When cello teachers get together at conventions, or privately, or at master-class sessions, the question most prominent in conversation is "What teaching material are you using?" - or, "Is there something new being published beside the so-called 'new editions' of the twenty-five-year-old methods?"

The fact is that nothing new has been brought out, and progressive exercises in authoritative editions are almost nonexistent. Most methods give slight importance to the fundamentals and often jump the student to the fourth position with hardly any preparatory material. In spite of this, the popularity of the cello has grown steadily.

A year or so ago someone brought me a book of etudes and scales by Rudolf Matz. After looking it over carefully, I became more and more interested both in what this wonderful man had to say and in what his method meant for a new generation of cello students. I asked questions about the origin of the man and his whereabouts for I felt I must see him, talk with him, and examine the additional thirty-one volumes listed on the back page of the book I had. Eventually I discovered that Rudolf Matz was a professor of cello at the Academy of Music in Zagreb, Yugoslavia. It did not take me long to fly there - we met and became the best of friends.

Professor Matz's lovely personality, his dedication to music and to his instrument, and his kindness and simplicity made me realize that here was not only a wonderful musician and pedagogue but a great human being as well. We talked for days about cello methods and the present-day problems of technique, and we exchanged thoughts and ideas enough to fill another thirty-two volumes! I was determined to make his works known in the United States, and we finally agreed that I should condense his great treatise into two volumes which were to progress step-by-step from open-string playing to the level of virtuosity. This I have tried to do.

It is my earnest hope that teachers and students alike will benefit from the work. And now when teachers gather to discuss the problems of teaching material, the answer can be in the affirmative: something new has been published!

I dedicate this condensation to my beloved teacher and friend, Gregor Piatigorsky, to whom I am eternally indebted for his influence and for the guidance and inspiration which he has given me over many years.

Lev Aronson

There has long been a need for a study of cello technique that is both comprehensive and detailed. Professor Matz, in his thirty-two-volume original, has covered every aspect of the fundamentals of cello technique. The chapters for beginners, the etudes based on those chapters, the explanation of the sixteen basic finger-changing patterns, the preparatory exercises for scales, the scales themselves, the thumb position, the right-hand exercises - all should be of great benefit to cellists.

Great credit is due to Mr. Lev Aronson, not only for extracting a practical digest from these volumes but also for amplifying Professor Matz's analysis of each successive problem through detailed explanations and much new material of his own devising.

Mr. Aronson has divided this digest into seven progressive parts, placing each chapter into its proper niche in the logical continuity of development from open strings to virtuoso technique. His translations are clear and concise and the text has gained much through his own erudition and experience.

This book should be welcomed by every student and teacher. I am certain it will take its place among the finest in its field.

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INTRODUCTION

A. Glossary of Terms and Symbols Used in this Book

Basic String and Finger Designations:

I = first string (tuned to A)

II = second string (tuned to D)

III = third string (tuned to G)

IV = fourth string (tuned to C)

0 = open string

l = first finger

2 = second finger

3 = third finger

4 = fourth finger

0 = thumb

(i) or (ii) etc. = To be played in the designated position until the horizontal line stops.

Bowing Indications:

arco = To be played with the bow.

T = down bow (in which the bow arm is moved away
 from the body horizontally towards the right).

 $\bigcap V$ = To be practiced with up and down bowings.

To be successively practiced on all four strings.

" = To break or interrupt the tone for an instant.

s = To separate two or more notes without interruption of the tone. (This is an integral part of phrasing.)

Plucking and "Percussion" Indications:

pizz. = The pizzicato. To pluck a string with the fingers of the right hand.

When placed over or under a note, this means to produce that tone by percussion - that is, to use a specific finger of the left hand as a piston, dropping it perpendicularly and with controlled force, yet pliantly, upon a specified string. (The purpose of this procedure is to develop muscular strength, finger alertness and clarity of response in running passages where the fingers will have to fall in an absolutely metronomical rhythm. In playing cantilena passages, the approach is different: one finger takes over from the previous one in a legato motion.)

Parts of the Bow:

p.c.

or
To be played at the frog.

or
To be played with the middle of the bow.

or
To be played with the tip of the bow.

\[\frac{1}{2} = \text{To be played with the whole bow.} \]

\[\frac{1}{2} = \text{To be played with one-half of the bow.} \]

\[\frac{1}{4} = \text{To be played with one-quarter of the bow.} \]

\[\frac{1}{4} = \text{To be played with one-eighth of the bow.} \]

Some Combinations of the Previous Sign and Number Symbols:

 $\frac{1}{2}$ = To be played with the lower half of the bow.

= To be played with the fourth of the bow about its middle.

= To be played with the eighth of the bow at the tip.

* = The asterisk after a fraction - such as: \(\frac{1}{4} \) - indicates that the exercise to which these symbols refer is to be practiced three times: once each with that fraction of the bow nearest the frog, about the middle, and at the tip.

Fingering and String Symbols:

= To place both specified fingers simultaneously upon a string. (This procedure can be used to anticipate the production of percussion tones by other fingers.)

The finger specified in that portion of the box offset to the right (here, "1") joins the other specified fingers (here, "2, 3, 4") on the string as soon as possible.

The lowest finger in the box is placed on the string specified by the symbol to its left outside the box; similarly, the other fingers are placed simultaneously upon the string specified to their left. A string symbol controls all specified fingers to its right and in downward listing until the next string symbol appears below it.

The finger specified in the box at the beginning of the horizontal line remains on a specified string for the duration of that line and until the arrowhead terminates it.

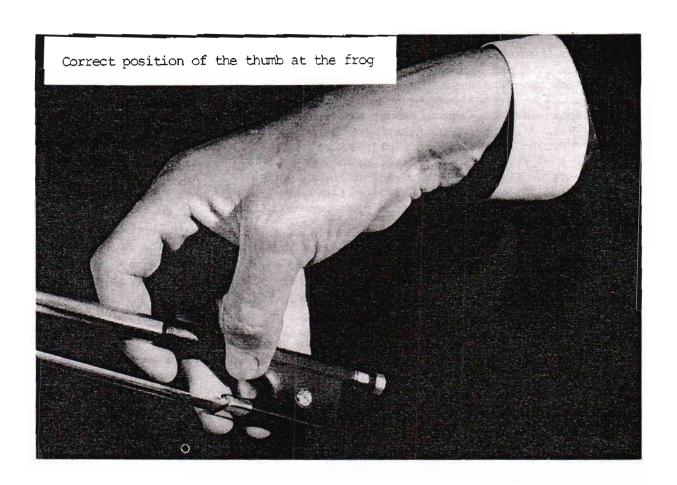
To raise the specified finger and drop it obliquely but with a raised attacking motion instead of with a piston-like directness or with
a glissando movement on an adjacent string
from a preceding higher or lower half-tone.
This action creates a whole-tone "open stretch"
between the specified finger and a previous
one. (This action is particularly useful in
changes from closed to open positions where
the "feel" for accurate stretch and position
changes is first developed.)

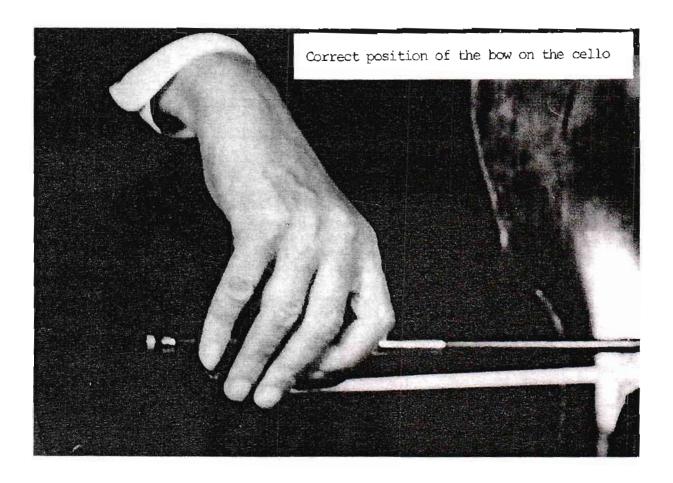
1 ←→ 2 = Indicates that a whole-tone "open stretch" exists between any two fingers of the left hand:

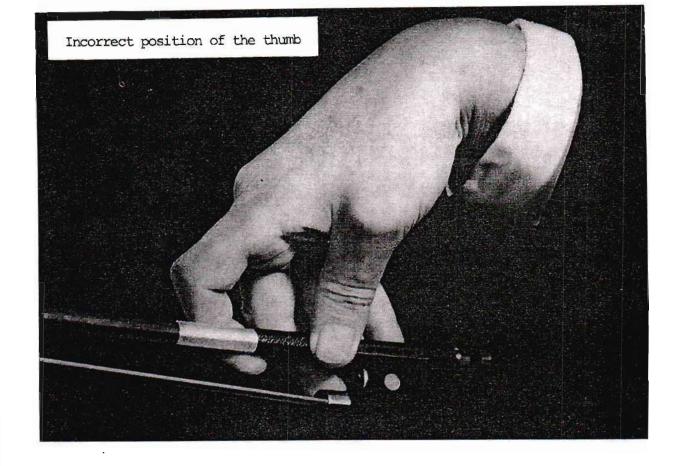


or 1 2 = A diagonal line between two finger numbers or two notes denotes a glissando running in the direction of that line. This technique is generally used in the higher positions because of the smaller distances between any two tones, where it contributes to the legato feeling between notes. However, it can also be used in the lower positions to facilitate movement across strings, in four-note patterns, or in octaves; in the latter, the thumb position on the fingerboard is also used.

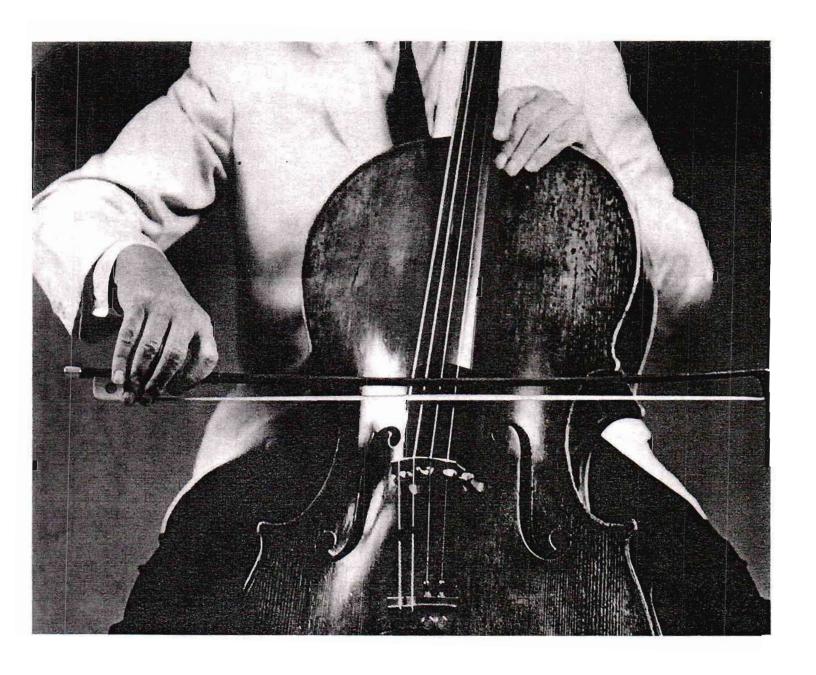
This indicates that the thumb is to maintain its position upon a string for the duration of the space between these symbols.











Pósition of the hand with the bow at midpoint

Position of the bow at the point



Position at the frog



B. Correct Playing Position

Something should be said at this point about the correct playing position of the cello, the correct position of the shoulder, the arm, the hand and the fingers, the grasp of the bow and the balance of the bow, as well as the position of the left hand on the cello neck.

Positioning the Cello:

The basic position of the cello should be as it was before the end pin was invented. The natural way to position the cello is to take the cello between the knees and slide the end pin down until it touches the floor. The correct position of the instrument will determine the correct position of both hands and arms, which will be like the two flexible wings of a bird. Hands, arms and shoulders should contain a subtle, though not sudden or broken, curve throughout. The direction of the bow will then determine the lie of the hand.

Grasping the Bow:

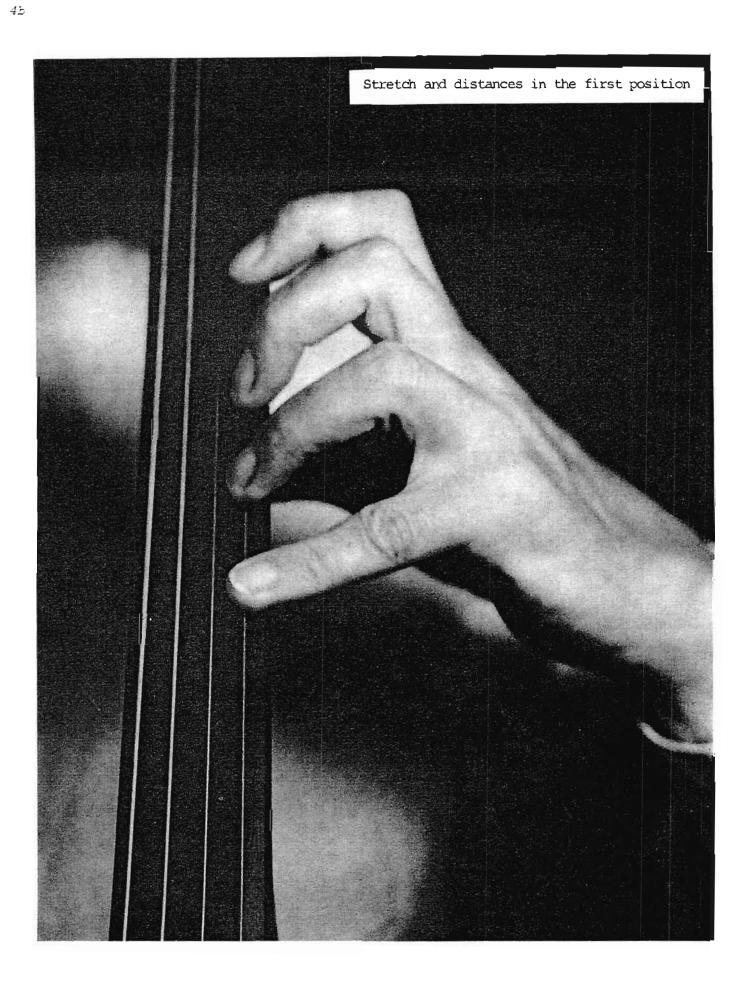
The correct grasp of the bow can be obtained in this manner. Palm down, oppose the thumb and middle finger of the right hand so that they just touch. These fingers can now be worked in and out at the first joint so that their joined tips seem like the head of a striking snake. With the bow tip towards the student's left, the frog of the bow can now be introduced between them in such a manner that the frog is held at the little hill on its curve with the right side of the thumb between the nail and the flesh. It will be found that the bow can be held perfectly balanced in this manner by just these two fingers.

Now, the third and fourth fingers should be placed next to the middle one on the frog. The hand should then be revolved about the wrist so that the bow tip makes a half circle from the left to the right side of the student and the palm of the hand is facing upward. To insure the bow from falling, the first finger is then placed on the frog "lightly apart" from the others and subtly arched. The fingers at this point will be seen to be in "respectful relation" to each other - that is, with equal grasping weight.

The hand is then revolved back to its original downward facing position, the wrist is raised a bit, the forearm is turned to the left and the weight of the bow is applied against the string. As the student guides the bow by alternately pushing and pulling it with the finger tips, it will be seen that the position of the thumb gradually changes. In a down bow, the thumb becomes almost straight with its ball opposed to that of the middle finger. In an up bow, the thumb gradually approaches its starting position where its tip again comes into opposition to that of the middle finger.

The purpose of the fingers on the frog is not only to hold the bow. Since only the finger tips touch the frog, the fingers remain free enough to perform another important duty: they control the bow. To repeat, in down bow, the finger tips pull the bow; in up bow, they push. Thus, the finger tips "play" the bow, as one would "play" a fishing rod, so that the bow becomes a "live" instrument in the student's hand. He controls it, directs it, manipulates it, channels its movement and works in tandem with it. Thus, one could say that there are two instruments involved in playing the cello: the cello and the bow.





C. The Position of the Left Hand

The correct placement of the left hand on the fingerboard can be obtained in the following manner. As with the right hand, again oppose the thumb and middle finger of the left hand so that they just touch, but this time let the middle finger tip touch the left corner of the thumb. Again, the opposing fingers can be freely worked in and out. The upper arm is then raised a bit away from the body. Using the elbow as a fulcrum, the hand in its opposed finger placement can be swung in an arc so that the finger tips just touch the student's mouth. Now, move the forearm back half the length of the arc, turn it slightly to the left, slightly arch the wrist, and insert the cello neck between the opposing fingers so that only the finger tips touch the strings. When correctly placed, the fingers appear on the D string in a subtly curved manner and at a proper distance from each other (the teacher should demonstrate this to the pupil). The student will find that the left corner of the thumb as it leans against the back of the cello neck is naturally opposed to the middle finger.

What should occur as the hand moves up and down the fingerboard is a free action of the fingers rather than a convulsive grip. The thumb should never be used to give additional support to the fingers above it by pressing against the neck. Rather, the fingers should always move from a concentration of power whose "focus" is through the knuckles of the hand in a direct line to the fingerboard. Everything about the hand revolves around this center of power. Everything is concentration of power and of sound. If power is felt to go through the hand in this way, the hand will more naturally fall into its correct lie.

Fingers are never placed individually on the fingerboard or on a string. They always support each other. Finger 1 is supported by the thumb, finger 2 is supported by 1, etc.

From the beginning, the student should also imagine and feel that each note has its own distinct place in the fingerboard. The board should not be a blank plane but should be thought of as having holes in it for each tone - and the fingers should be able to fit exactly into each one. Such a procedure will rapidly develop a rapport between the student and his instrument.

D. How to Practice

Organized practicing is the first step to success. The student should first approach the actual physical side of practice constructively and intelligently. He should check his posture as he sits, the position of the instrument in relation to his body and hands; notice should be taken that the shoulder muscles, those behind the shoulder blades, the fingers of the left hand, its thumb on the cello neck, and the right thumb on the bow frog are relaxed but "aware" - in fact, the student should take advantage of everything that will help him to achieve the best results in the shortest time. He should remember that tension is as much the hindrance to progress and the cause of discord as the free and dynamic coordination of all performing elements is its helpmeet. Thus, the ideal conditions for performance are complete relaxation of the body in tandem with alertness in the fingers of both hands.

The other part of organized practicing is an imaginative approach to all musical problems. The student should study technique analytically and should know ahead of performance what he wants to say and how he wants to say it. In this way, what he has learned will always serve as the foundation for what he has yet to learn and his goals will ever be clear before him.

PART ONE

FIRST STEPS

CHAPTER 1

OPEN-STRING BOWING - CHANGING STRINGS ON A BOW STROKE

Separate Bowings - Preparatory Exercises

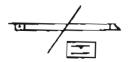
Placing the Bow on String II:

Since strings II and III are the center of the instrument, the student will find that the middle of the bow can be placed on these strings with greater facility than upon the outer strings and the bow moved more easily in either direction. It is on these two strings that the student most naturally, at first, achieves the transfer of arm and shoulder weight through the bow.

In the following exercises, the pupil places the bow on string II, alternately at the frog,



at the middle,



and at the tip.



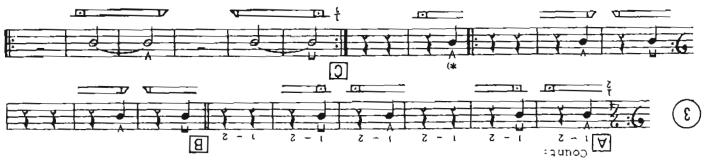
(Each of these pictures of bow placement on string is represented by a symbol which will be presented, explained and used in Chapter 2.)

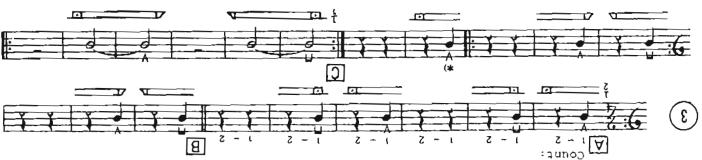
The first exercise is to be done with very short bow movements of about one inch. The tapping or flicking movements on the point, at the middle, and at the frog of the bow on the string are essential for the balance of the bow. The rests should be observed exactly, even counted aloud, during which period the student should mentally and physically prepare himself for the subsequent movements.

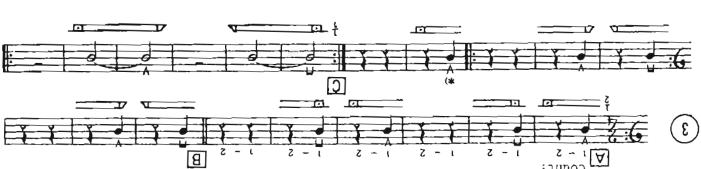


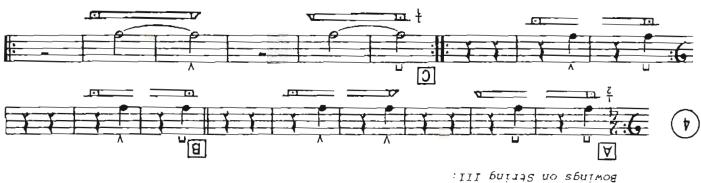
.pairts guiding the bow which, in tuxm, is held by the pupil closely against the the lingers of the same hand together with the frog of the bow, thereby pupil's right hand at the wrist, while the teacher's right hand holds In the following two exercises, the teacher's left hand holds the





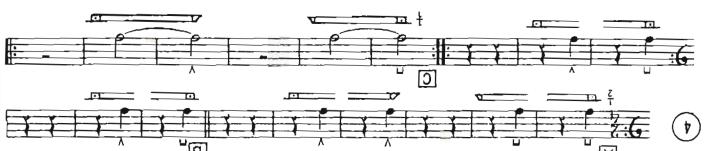






II and III together. The procedures outlined above also apply here.

In Exercise 4, the student plays on string III; in Exercise 5, on





Simultaneous Bowings on Strings II and III:

In this next exercise, the teacher assists the pupil in the same fashion as above. During the measure rests, the pupil tries to hold the bow in the correct manner without any help from the teacher who, of course, stands ready to correct any errors that may occur.

This exercise is to be performed always using the entire playing surface of the bow. Physiologically, the stroke from the frog to the middle is primarily involved with shoulder action because of the length of the note, and from the middle to the tip, primarily with elbow action. When using the latter bow area, it is necessary to gradually increase the weight of the bow in order to preserve the intensity of the tone. However, the weight of the bow should not be placed against the string with both the shoulder and the elbow stiff and raised. This will lead to too much weight and to "choking" of the sound because the bow is given an unnecessary load of power. During the rests, the bow is to be held with the same force against the string as during the actual playing.

Later, the pupil, by himself and without any help from the teacher, may perform each bowing (as in the exercise below) with a full and uniform tone, patiently drawing the whole bow as slowly as possible across the string so that each stroke may last as long as half a minute or even longer!





CHAPTER 2

CHANGING AND CONNECTING BOW STROKES

In connecting two bow strokes, both the wrist and the fingers holding the bow participate. Whatever the force of the changing action, it is most important not to loosen the contact between the bow and the string and to

- mentally prepare the attack for the next note during rests;
- (2) maintain the same force when attacking each bar;
- (3) connect the bowings without intermediate accents.

A. Preparatory Exercise for Changing Bows



Here, bowing is performed exclusively because of the shortage of bow movement and to keep the bow motion under complete control. To make certain that the student does not use elbow or shoulder action the teacher should immobilize the student's forearm by holding it. When this exercise is bowed at the frog or at the middle, the bow moves five to seven inches across the string (see diagram 1, below); but when bowed at the tip, the bow is thrown off the string, causing only a tap (see diagram 2).



B. Exercises for Connected Bowings - Détaché - Legato

Connecting Bowings on String II:

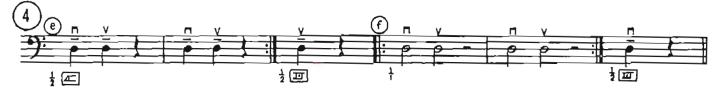
Changing at the Frog



Changing in the Middle



Changing at the Tip



In the above, play each section several times. The entire exercise is to be performed without interruption, and the repeats must be taken.

The intensity and quality of tone depends on

- (1) the proper bow movement and attack to create equal sound vibrations through equally distributed weight;
- (2) the rapidity of bowing;
- (3) the proper contact between bow and string.

The instrument itself will tell the student when there is too much or too little weight through a scratchy, crackling sound if there is too much, and a light or "whistle-y" sound if there is too little. By concentrated listening, the student will learn to adjust the weight of his hand in order to produce the proper contact with the strings, and thus create a concentrated sound in piano as well as in forte. The degree of tone intensity is determined by

- (1) the attack of the bow;
- (2) the rapidity of bowing;
- (3) the proximity of the bow to the bridge.

Very near the bridge, it is impossible to produce a normal tone; instead, only a so-called *sul ponticello* (Italian for "on the bridge") tone results - a tone of dry characteristics without the normal string resonance.



In the exercise above, bowings should be practiced with varying degrees of attack strength and at different speeds, the length of the bow used being equal in every case.

C. An Exercise for Comparative Amounts of Bow Movement



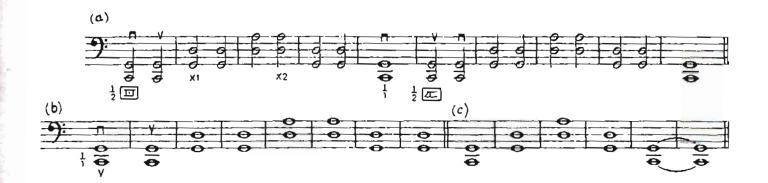
At the end of each dotted half note the bow is raised from the string and the arm is brought into position again through a circular movement to attack the next note as shown in the diagrams on page 9.

D. Constant-Speed Bowings with the Same Part of the Bow

The variations in the example below, from (a) through (h), are to be played alternately with the whole bow, the lower half of the bow, and the upper half of the bow; then, finally, as indicated in the example itself.



CONSTANT-SPEED BOWINGS WITH THE SAME PART OF THE BOW IN OPEN-STRING DOUBLE STOPS



The shift from one double stop to another (x1, x2) should be conducted in the following manner:







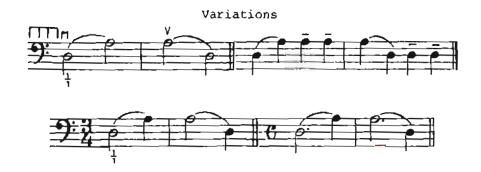
CHAPTER 4

EXERCISES FOR THE EASY CHANGING FROM STRING TO STRING

In this chapter we are concerned, in a limited sense only, with the technique of changing from string to string. Rather, elements of the technique are necessary for the performance of certain typical successions of notes played on two neighboring strings and involved with frequent transitions from one string to another, as in the following:



Play the same pattern on all four strings.







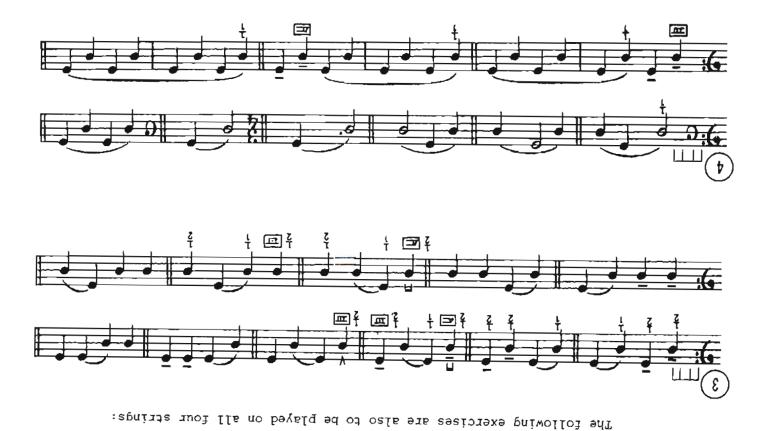
The student must be sure to remember to perform these exercises on all four strings. They should be performed slowly at first, and then more rapidly and with differing attacks as facility is gained.

What we are concerned with here are the differences between changing from the D to the A string as opposed to changing from the D to the G string. In either case, the changing motion of the bow is very small. However, from the D to the G string the changing motion should be made with the help of the shoulder blade rather than with the motion of the arm alone, as in the change from the D to the A string. The change from the G to the C string is also as small as the previous changes, but the elbow, instead of moving out and up into an awkward raised position, follows the motion of the shoulder blade and the natural, contained curve of the body. In this position, the hand and the entire arm resemble the position of a swimmer naturally stroking and preparing to move the arm above the head.



In a rapid tempo, the right-hand wrist actions necessary for bow changes (from left to right and back again) are combined with the actions necessary for the changing of strings (up and down) into one uniform and uninterrupted action. The bow seems to be bowing on an imaginary string between the upper and lower string. The arrows in the visualization below describe the movements the bow frog and right hand make while the exercise is actually being played. If these movements are correct, the motion pattern can readily be seen by the stuments are correct, the motion pattern can readily be seen by the stuments are correct, the motion pattern can readily be seen by the stuments.

Exercises 3 and 4 above are to be played in a rapid tempo. The detached notes are to be played with the same length of bow as those that are bound by slurs, but with bowings of different speeds and attack.



CHAPTER 5

HALF-STEP EXERCISES ON ONE STRING

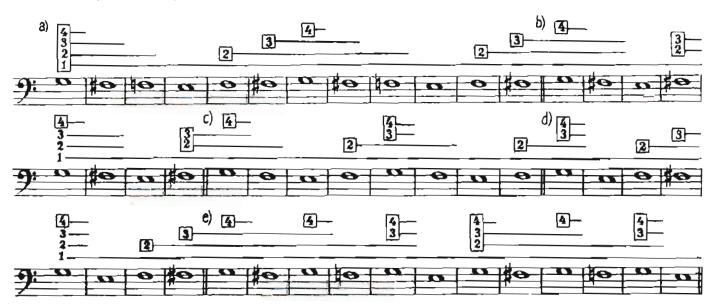
Placing the Fingers on the Fingerboard

Here, it must be repeated that the planes of the fingers and the fingerboard are parallel while the fingers themselves form a right angle with the edge of the fingerboard, with only the tips of the fingers touching the string.

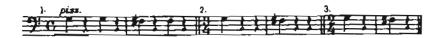
The left side of the thumb above the nail leans, but is not pressed, against the neck of the cello. The upper arm is raised, a little detached from the body. The lower in pitch and further to the right the string on which we bow, the more the left elbow is raised so as to allow the fingers to preserve their normal position on the fingerboard.

On the other hand, the left elbow must never descend below its usual height when fingering in first position on the A string because this would break the natural curve of the arm to the body.

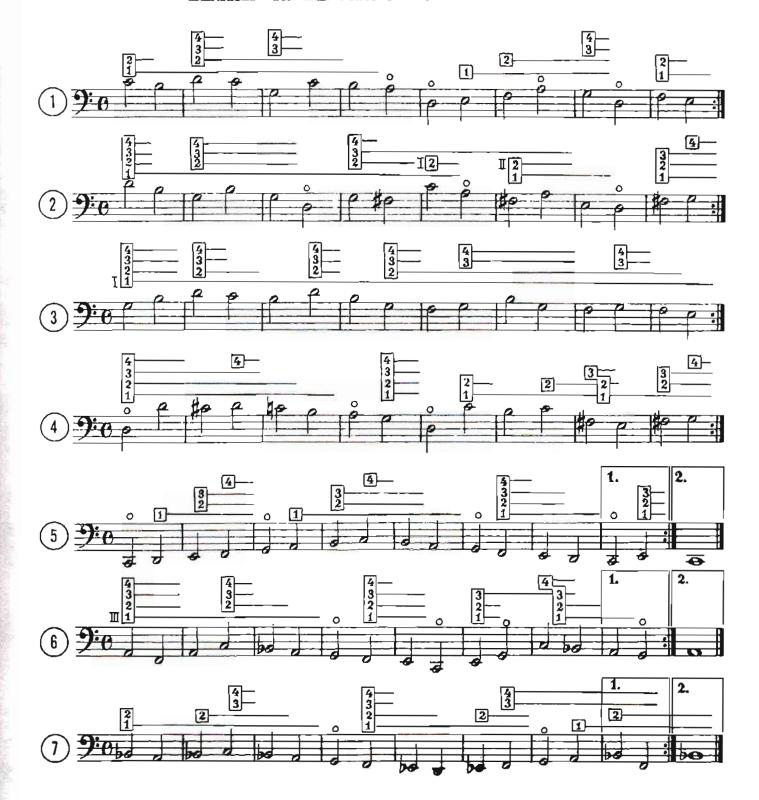
The exercises below should be practiced at first pizzicato, then arco, on string II, and then on all four strings:



In addition, the pizzicato should be studied in the following ways:



EXERCISES WITH HALF NOTES ON TWO SUCCESSIVE STRINGS







During the stops, the left hand anticipates the following tone by means of a strong percussion.

CHAPTER 7

THE CLARIFICATION OF INTONATION THROUGH LEFT-HAND PERCUSSION STROKES, AUTACKS AND PIZZICATI (the power coming always through the knuckles)

The following exercises lead to exact intonation by allowing the pupil to hear directly the sound produced by a particular left-hand finger placement.

After each ascending note is played by percussion (p), the descending note is plucked, or played pizzicato (+) by the finger that was previously on the string. In this action, the finger is not raised vertically, as in a percussion stroke, but is only rounded a little towards the palm in such a way that the rounding action plucks the string. The plucking action can only be conveniently performed in the descending mode since, in the ascending mode, the finger will necessarily have to leave the string to pluck it and, thereby lose the desired pitch.

When plucking the string in Exercise 1, the student must be sure to raise the entire hand after each note preparatory to its attack upon the next note. (Raising only the plucking finger would cause the hand not to work as a unit, creating a lack of the concentrated application of power and a senseless feeling of motion.) The placement and pick-up of the fingers should resemble the attack and release of a boxer's punch or the rebound of a ball. When practiced over a period of time, this exercise gradually creates an alertness to and flexibility of finger movements.

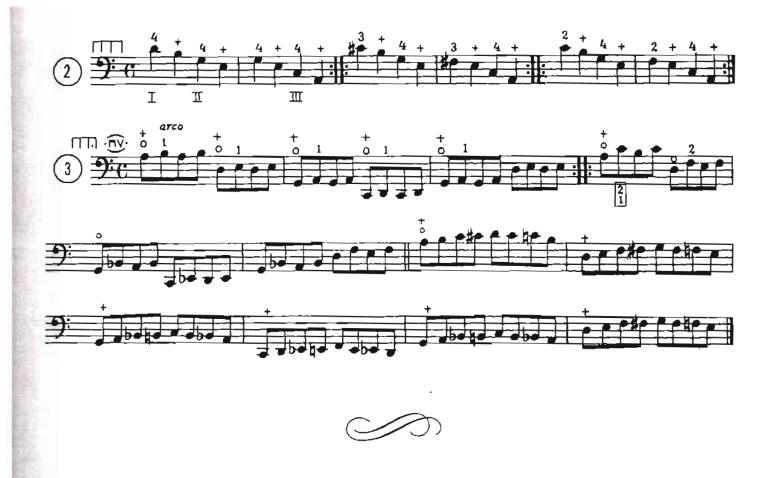
In Exercise 2, the entire hand is already on the string when the fingers are raised in a plucking motion, then replaced upon the string in order to perform the same action again.

The plucking motion of the fourth finger on the notes marked "+" forces it, together with the second and third fingers, to leave the string and rise into the air as if preparing a dive onto the next note from the heights above the string. It must be emphasized that to pluck the string with any but the finger that plucked the previous note is a waste of energy. The student will find these movements particularly useful in the later study of positions, stretches and hand extensions.

The following exercises should be performed on all strings. As will be obvious to the student, the bow is used only in Exercise 3.







CHAPTER 8

EXERCISES FOR FINGER DEXTERITY

In the following exercises, the fingers at all times must be highly arched above the fingerboard at the first joint from the knuckle. Special attention must be paid to the third finger, since it is the weakest finger when used in this manner, and the least archable.



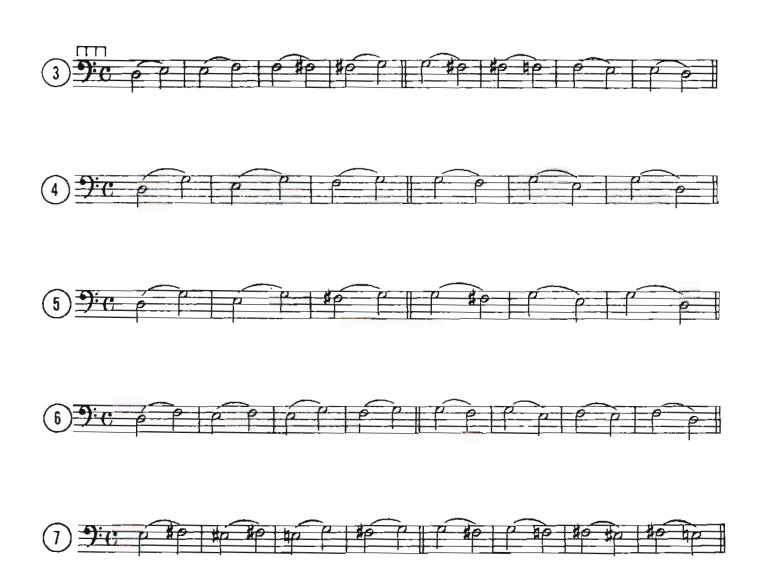
*In this and the other examples in the combination 1-2-4, the third finger, because of its supporting function, falls simultaneously with the fourth.



The following exercises are to be performed in the same way and, again, on all strings:



*In this and the other examples in the combination 1-3-4, the second finger, because of its supporting function, falls simultaneously with the third.



CHAPTER 9

INTONATION EXERCISES USING AN ADJACENT OPEN STRING

At first, each of the exercises below should be performed with either one of the fingered notes (if there are two) alternately replaced by the open string. By this usage, the student will be able to hear with greater clarity if the interval formed by the fingered note and the open string is in tune and if the fingered note itself is at the correct pitch. Concentrated listening will lead to good intonation practices. As proficiency is attained, the fingered note may again be substituted for the open string.





EXERCISES IN CONJUNCT SCALES, SKIPS AND ARPEGGIOS

Each scale should always be studied in the following sequence: the scale itself, the scale as applied to thirds, as applied to fourths, as applied to sixths, to octaves, and then to arpeggiated chords. Pay particular attention to the study of the last item.

Fingering symbols are indicated in some exercises only. In all others, symbols appear only where the fingering can be misconstrued.

A. Conjunct Movement in Quadruple Meter



C melodic minor



Note to the student: Each minor-scale exercise should always be performed both in its harmonic and melodic scale forms.



When the pupil has mastered the exercises above in the given common keys, the same patterns should be transferred to more remote keys and played in triple meter.



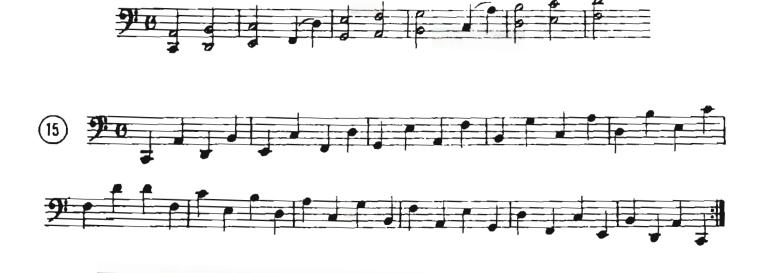


C. Movement in Skips of Fourths



D. Movement in Skips of Sixths

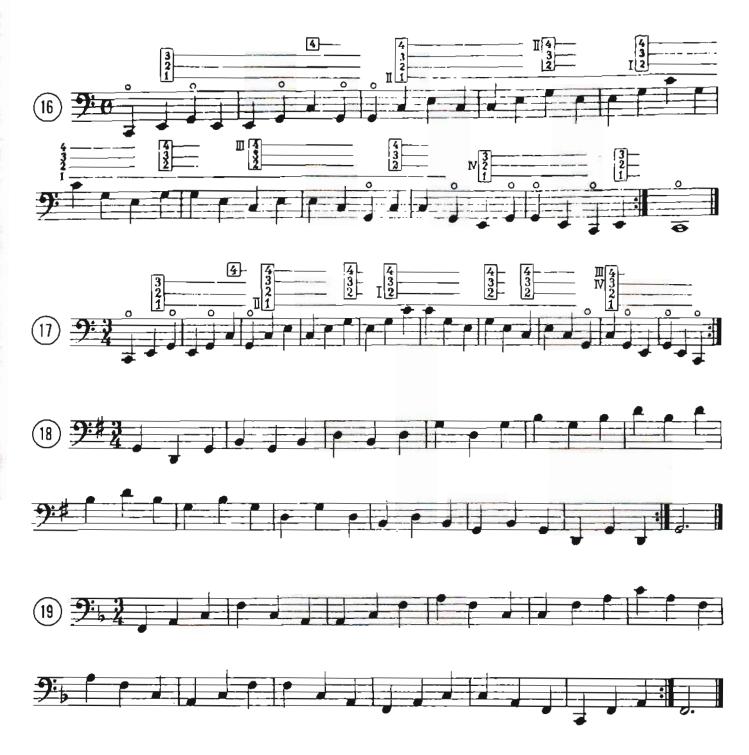
Preparatory exercise



E. Movement in Arpeggiated Chords and Chromatic Scales

To insure precise intonation throughout the exercises in section E, it is advisable, whenever possible, to keep the third finger without movement on its string. This will insure, in turn, that the hand remains in first position and does not inadvertently move higher or lower when changing from string to string as it very well might if it released the string entirely.

As a general rule, whenever the student moves a finger from one string to another, the hand should remain in contact with the finger-board. Only the fingers themselves are raised, not the entire hand. The student should also endeavor to place the finger with a definite motion, as though he were hooking the fingertip to the string.









BOWED ETUDES IN QUARTER NOTES

At first, these etudes are to be played in a very slow tempo with the whole bow, then with the lower half, and finally with the upper half. They should also be played at a constant loudness level, with even rhythm, good legato, unvarying attack, no accents, uniform timbre and no vibrato. The pupil should maintain the same weight and intensity for both up and down bows.

When the pupil has mastered these etudes to his teacher's satisfaction, he may then repeat the exercises with the variations written underneath each. As the pupil advances in technical facility, he should be encouraged to practice the exercises in this book employing the written variations at every opportunity. In addition, he should apply the principles of previous exercises to later ones, and create original variations of his own.

The fingering in the following etudes has been omitted on purpose, because it is assumed that the pupil has acquired enough knowledge by this time to undertake this task. Where alternate fingerings are possible, the fingers that should be used on a particular string have been placed at the head of each exercise.

III 1. 2. 4. — II. 1. 2. 4.



II. 1. 2. 4. — I. 1. 2. 4.



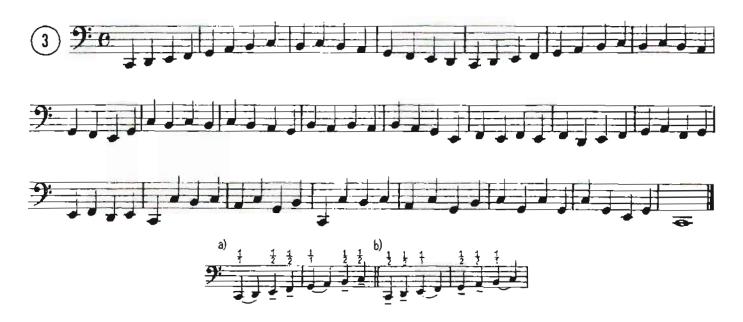


II. 1. 3. 4. — I. 1. 3. 4.





IV. 1. 3. 4. — III. 1. 3. 4.



IL 1. 2. 3. 4. — III. 1. 2. 3. 4.



I. 1. 2. 3. 4. — IL 1. 2. 3. 4.









II. 1. 3. 4. — I. 1. 2. 4.



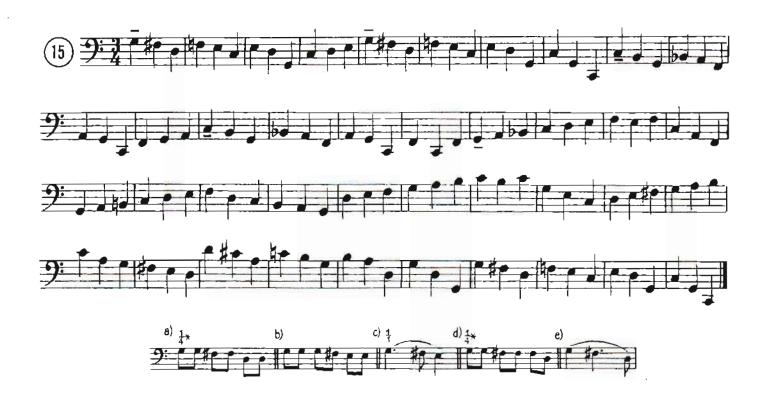


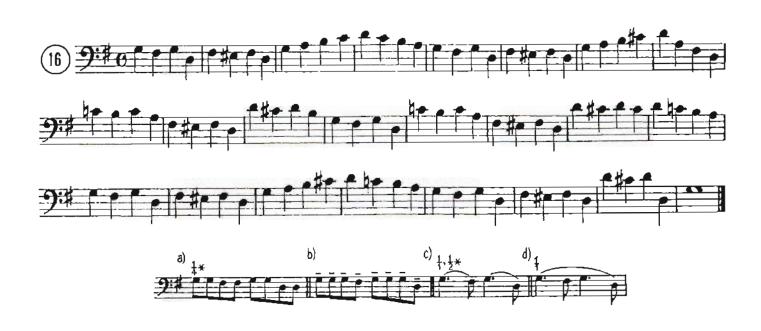


















CHAPTER 12

SHIFTING FINGERS ON A STRING

A. First-Finger Glissando Shifts: Whole- and Half-Step Movements Up and Down Individual Strings

The pedagogical purpose of this chapter is to introduce the student to the conception that playing the cello should be as easy and spontaneous as breathing. Concretely, it introduces the student to movement out of the first position and is also the first step toward the exploration of new fingering sensations and the enlargement of the field of the hand's activities. It is here that the student should first realize that any exercise (as well, indeed, as any piece of music), performed on any instrument, is accomplished through an intricately connected series of physical "journeys" or "processes" - here, the bow hand guiding the bow back and forth on the strings and the left hand going from one place to another on the fingerboard. It is the effect of one "journey" on the next that determines the ease of performance and the character of interpretation.

Thus, where the hand has been on the fingerboard affects a number of "processes:" the position of the hand and how it got there; where the hand is going and what fingering should be employed to get there; the difficulty in completing the "journey;" and whether the results obtained (that is, the coloring of a note and the phrasing of a passage that give music its life) are worth the effort expended. This conception of fin-

gering technique as a series of processes will later provide the justification for the purposeful study of stretches, hand extensions, position shifts and the sixteen basic finger-changing patterns; for the more ways the student finds to approach a note, the more its color can be varied and the more comfortable, natural and "instinctive" will be its fingering and that of the notes that surround it.

The student, therefore, should not identify a finger with a note. A distinct change in sensation occurs each time the same note is played with a different finger or approached through a different fingering. For example, in Exercise 1 the student plays the G in measure 1 with the fourth finger in first position; but in measure 2 he plays it with the third finger, the fourth finger plays A, and the hand is said to be in second position. The student will immediately sense the change in "touch" and ease of production of the G when played by the strong third finger as opposed to the weaker fourth.

In the following exercises, remember that the "lie" of the hand does not change when the hand shifts a half-step up the fingerboard. The fingers remain in the same relative placement to each other while the hand moves as a unit.

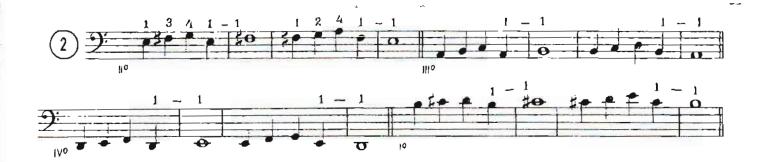
To introduce the student to hand extension and open position, all notes played by the fourth finger should be raised a half-step. Thus, the Ab in measure 3 of Exercise 1 would become Ab, etc. Also, to support the fourth finger in its extension, fingers two and three also move away from the first, thereby changing the "lie" of the hand and moving the hand out of close position. The thumb, of course, has to follow the second finger, in order not to leave the hand in tension.

The correct performance of these whole-step shifts will become the gateway to early mastery of stretches, position shifts and hand extensions. In addition, at this point, the teacher should give the student singing exercises of whole- and half-steps accompanied by demonstrations on the piano of the visual meaning of the black and white keys, since there is a direct correlation on both the piano and the cello between motion distance and pitch.



Variation







The second staff with the "O" marks shows approximately where the thumb should be placed along the back of the neck while the fingers are performing the contents of the first staff.





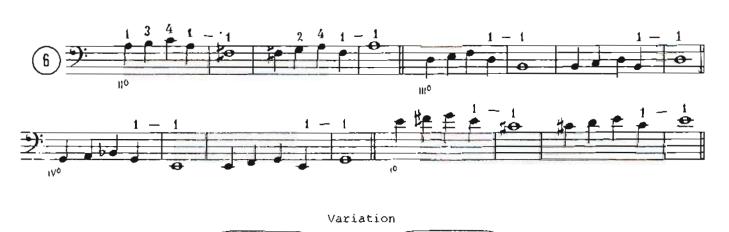
B. First-Finger Glissando Shifts: Skips of Major and Minor Thirds



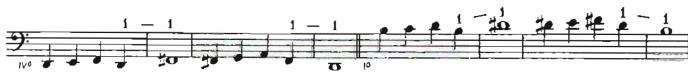


Here it is advisable that the teacher place the hand of the student into the fourth position in order to teach him more easily the technique of shifting back with the first finger. The student should see that the heel of the hand does not rest on the cello but is about a half-inch away.

These exercises should be performed with a full and singing tone, especially during the glissando shifts.







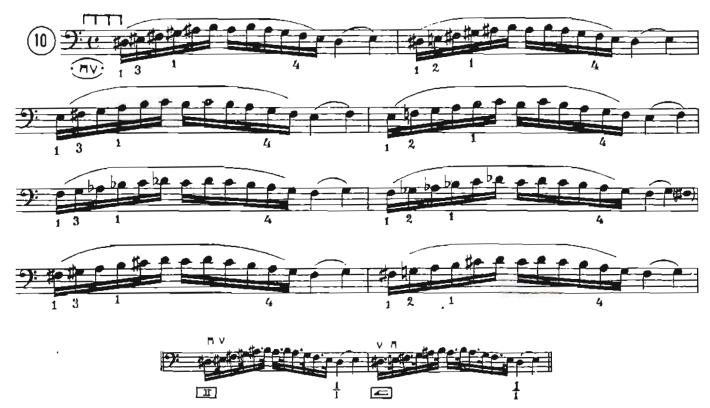


C. Perfect-Fourth Glissando Shifts Employing the First and Fourth Fingers

In the following sequential exercises, the first finger is employed in shifting the entire hand a perfect fourth up, and the fourth finger in shifting the entire hand a perfect fourth down. Original exercises should be created using other fingers in perfect-fourth shifts on all strings.



The finger-overlapping that occurs in Exercise 10 is another introduction to the techniques used in changing position:



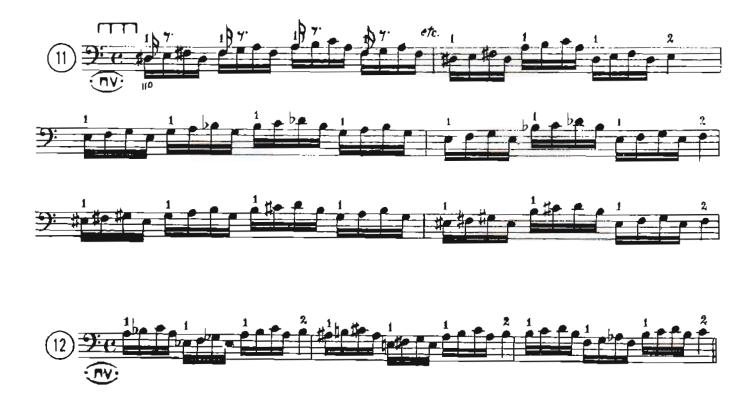
D. Shifts of an Augmented Fourth or a Diminished Fifth

In order to accustom the first finger to moving the interval of the augmented fourth or the diminished fifth, it is advisable, after studying the preliminary exercises, to study the exercises that follow by first playing only the first sixteenth note of each group of four; this method is notated in the first measure of Exercise 11. In practicing the exercises, such an approach will help develop good intonation in shifting.

Preliminary Exercises



This exercise may not only be practiced as an entity in rising halfsteps, but its component parts may also be used as motific cell replacements in Exercises 12 and 13, below.



Beyond the fourth position, the "lie" of the hand changes. This will be discussed in a later chapter.

E. Finger Substitutions on the Same Note

The purpose of these exercises is to teach the student dexterity of fingering by letting various fingers fall on the same note at the same point on the fingerboard without the preparation required in previous exercises. Here "finger memory" first comes into play. This procedure of finding the right "hole" in the fingerboard is different from previous ones because the hand remains in the same placement and only the fingers move.

In all of the following exercises, the same fingering should be employed at each repetition of a passage played a half-step higher.





The variant fingerings for the repeated notes in the above exercises are intentional and serve the purpose of introducing the hand to the way the same note "feels" under different fingers.

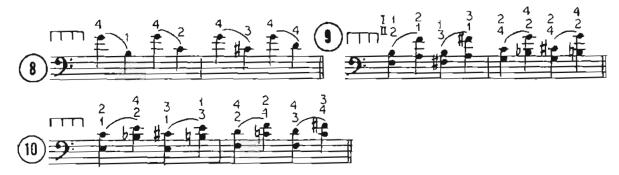
BASIC FINGER CHANGING PROCESSES FOR THE INDEPENDENCE OF FINGER ACTION

A. Preliminary Exercises

The student should become accustomed not only to the normal sequence of lower finger on lower string and upper finger on upper string but also to the reverse placement. This will also contribute to the independence of finger action.

These exercises should be played on all four strings and in shifts from the first to the fourth position in the same sequence.





The student should practice the first five exercises above with the intention of hearing clearly each intervallic leap before going on to the next one. The rest should be a moment of relaxation in which the student attempts to hear the following leap in his inner ear and prepares himself for its physical performance before actually playing it.

With assiduous practice the student will soon find that he can perform the latter five exercises (Nos. 6 - 10) with greater confidence and truer pitch.

B. Preliminary Exercises for Alternating Groups of Fingers on Two Strings

After Playing No. 11, below, the exercises that follow should be attempted, being sure to keep immobile those fingers not taking part. These exercises should be played on all four strings and in first to fourth positions.

In a): Keep fingers 1 and 3 on the string while playing 4 and 2.

In b): While fingers 2 and 4 are still

playing, prepare 1 and 3.

In(c): Keeping the other fingers on the string, move only the 4th finger.

In d): Keeping the other fingers on
the string, move only the 2nd finger.



C. Exercises in which a Finger is Moved from One String to the Same Place on an Adjacent String

First Finger



Second Finger



Third Finger



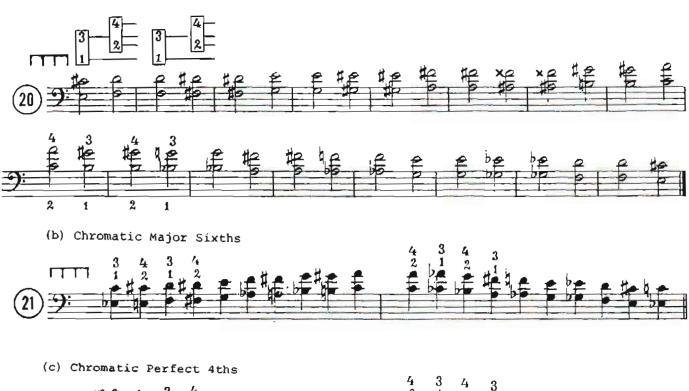
Fourth Finger



D. Exercises where Two Fingers Change Place (The fingers "dance a polka.")



- E. Shifting Two Fingers Up and Down Two Strings
 - (a) Chromatic Major Sixths in Pairs



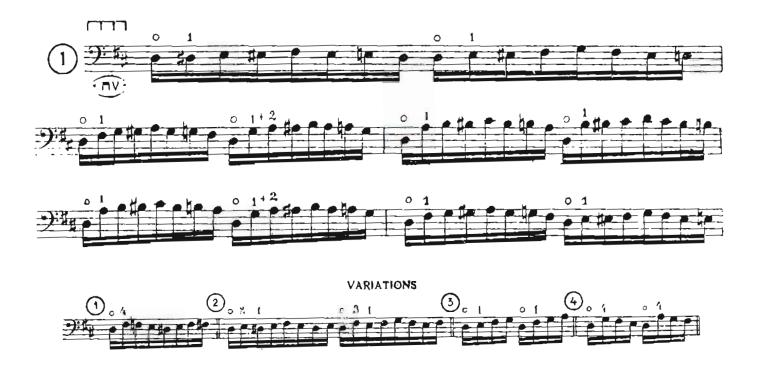


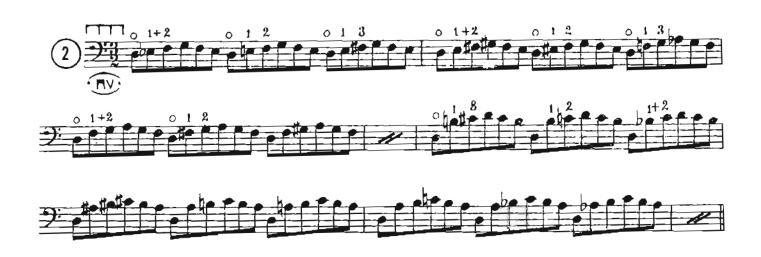


CHAPTER 14

EXERCISES IN PLASTICITY AND FLEXIBILITY OF FINGERING AND BOWING

In this chapter, the student should pay particular attention to everything he has learned before, approaching each individual finger movement not only as a motion by and for itself but as part of a pattern of energetic pickups and placements. It is also advisable to particularly study, as far as possible, the movements D to D#, D to E, D to F, D to F#, and D to G between any two fingers and as transferred to other strings.





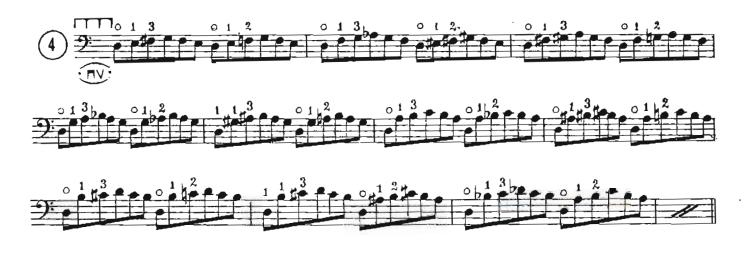
Variations

O 1+2

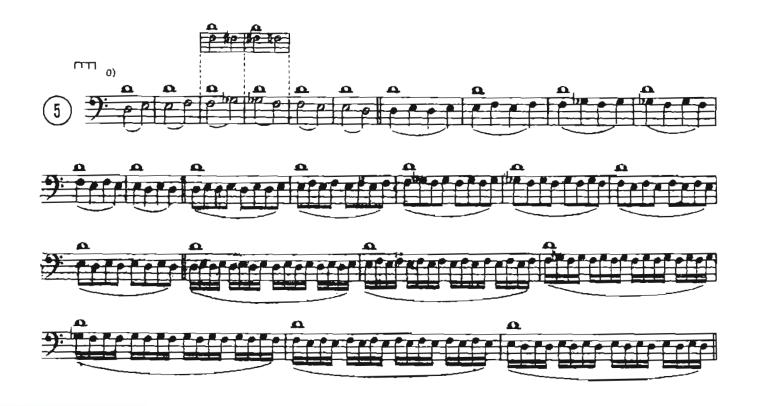
1 O 1+2















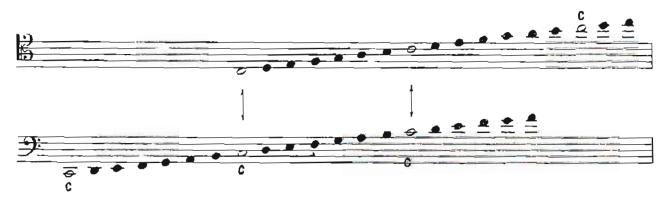
Play each bar several times; afterwards, continuously, without repetitions.



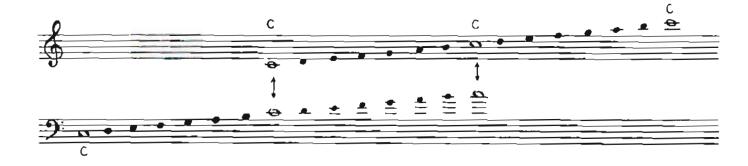
POSTSCRIPT

For future study, it will be necessary to acquaint the student with two clefs, the tenor and the treble.





Treble Clef



ELEVEN PIECES FOR CELLO AND PIANO

The cello part for these pieces, bound into this volume at the end of the book, may be removed for performance.





DUET



MINUET





BASSO CONTINUO









A FOLK SONG



SALTARELLO





THE WIND SCOURING THE FIELDS





BOOK ONE / PART TWO

The Study of Glissando Shifts, Stretches and Positions

CHAPTER 15

STRETCH AND POSITION CHANGES

The study of stretches and positions serves to achieve the following goals:

- extension of the compass of the hand in the most natural way;
- enabling the hand to cope with the most awkward figuration in the most natural manner:
- the ability to employ relevant changes in tone color wherever musically appropriate;
- phrasing any passage in the most musical way;
- the ability to give any passage whatever degree of emotional expression is necessary.

In addition, the study of stretches and positions is one of the fundamental methods of attaining security of fingering. The conventional fingerings are already learned responses by the time the student moves out of first position, and it is only logical, therefore, that he should attempt to play a note in a higher position with the same finger with which he would play it in a lower position. However, such unintelligent and disorganized practicing leads to many difficulties, among which are unnecessary arm and hand movements, distortions in the placement of the hand, possible injury to the muscles and sinews of the hand, and, most seriously, to an insecurity in finger action which must eventually result in inexact intonation.

To prevent these difficulties and to enable the pupil to do most easily what the intention of the music requires him to do, and not what false convenience and technical limitations make him do, the interrelations between positions and stretches should be studied. Only such study will give to the student a complete security in fingering and a confident ease in technique.

Early Concepts of Cello Fingering:

Fingering on the cello was originally taken from the viol and, later, from the violin, where successive fingers were expected to stop wholetone steps. The consequent awkward hand placements and the loss in ease of fingering and solidity of tone, especially in scale passages, were a distinct barrier to a free and confident technique.

The solution proved to be to build the entire technique of cello playing on the interval comfortably covered by the first and fourth fingers (a major or minor third) on that part of the fingerboard between the pegs and the middle, and on the consequent normal distance of a semitone between two adjacent fingers. This normal arrangement of the component parts of the hand on each string when moved up and down the fingerboard created areas of fingering activity around each semitone which later assumed the name of "positions."

Each position had its own set of fingerings for a diatonic or chromatic scale and, inevitably, a particular finger became gradually associated with a particular semitone in each position until, in many cases, that note, no matter how approached or left, was always played by that finger. Thus, the desired goal of technique largely became adherence to an inconsistent, arbitrary and illogical set of rules rather than ease and naturalness of fingering.

The Problems of Enharmonic Notation:

A further difficulty appeared when little or no account was taken of enharmonics when designating position. Since each position had several enharmonic variations which conflicted with those of neighboring positions in designation, the same problematic passages in hand stretches and placement, when notated enharmonically, could be given different position designations and, consequently, different fingerings and hand placements. On the other hand, different technical problems, if written enharmonically in such ways as to be included under the same position designation, could be given the same fingerings. (See Exercises 1 and 2, below.)

The Problems of Hand Movement:

The main difficulty arose when the abstract complexities of position designation were applied to the actual process of moving the hand up and down the fingerboard. What had begun as a necessity in order to clarify fingering processes almost became a game where the emphasis and interest were not on the fundamentals of fingering ease and naturalness of hand placement but, rather, on the choice of fingering through the empty determination of what were valid position changes and what were simple changes in hand stretches and extensions. An inability to consistently define the differences between them only added to the confusion of the situation. Advances in technique were hindered and too many cellists showed the defects in left hand technique that such study engendered.

An Illustration:



The shoals of technical error onto which a misplaced emphasis on definition can lead a student is illustrated in Exercises 1 and 2c, above. Both cases could be considered a change in stretch since the first finger never moves from its place on the fingerboard and the second, third and fourth fingers move to a new placement a half-step further away from the first finger. Since a change in stretch, in theory, does not alter the relationship of the hand unit to the fingerboard, the danger here, of course, is either that the thumb will be shifted tardily to its new placement on the neck opposite the second finger or, worse, will be kept in its previous placement. In either instance, this destroys the ability of the hand to act as an efficient unit and results in an incorrect hand placement, an inaccurate finger touch and, consequently, bad intonation in this open position.

It should be clear from the foregoing that the attainment of a confident technique demands that valid distinctions be made among position changes, changes in stretch and hand extensions. And, in truth, each can be described by the finger axis, arm and hand actions involved.

The Importance of the Second Finger/Thumb Axis:

Since the most efficient use of the left hand revolves around the axis formed by the second finger and the thumb, the determination of a position is dependent on the action of this axis in relation to the areas of activity on the fingerboard. Thus, it follows that a position change is an extension or a relocation of an area of activity in which this axis participates. The finger relationships can change or remain fixed while the forearm and hand move, as in Exercise 2a, above; or the other fingers and thumb, less the first finger, can move and the forearm remain still, as in Exercises 1 and 2c.

Forearm Angle and Motion:

When a position change involves moving the entire forearm and hand up and down the fingerboard, the forearm should be kept at as close to a right angle as possible to the fingerboard, no matter in what position, with the elbow being used as the fulcrum about which the forearm revolves. After the elbow and forearm stop moving, the fingers assume their correct relationships to one another and to the fingerboard itself. As the student advances into the higher positions, the elasticity of the shoulder enables the forearm to advance down the fingerboard at the correct angle.

A change in stretch, as in Exercise 2b, is an extension within a position and is concerned with changes in finger relationships and hand placement. It should be emphasized, however, that the second finger/thumb axis does not move. We employ stretch changes to stay in the same position as long as possible when an actual change would be inconvenient or inappropriate, or in order not to create extraneous sounds caused by shifting the finger on the string.

Hand Extensions:

The technique of hand extension combines elements of the other two changing methods and can be interpreted as *employing* a stretch change to encompass a position change without using shifts or glissandos. Generally, this is possible only for players with a large hand, since it demands that the first and fourth fingers extend a semitone or whole tone from the body of the hand, which remains still. It is used only in sequences of four or more notes or in leaps encompassing more than a major third, as in arpeggios, scale passages or rapid figurations on one string.

A Final Word:

The preceding text can be summarized in the following way: What should determine the fingering of a particular passage is ease and naturalness of approach and musical effect and not blind adherence to any set of rules. When this has been understood and the significance of the following exercises has been revealed by thorough practicing in a technically correct manner, the student will have received the technical preparation necessary for the study of three finger stretches in the higher positions.

THE GLISSANDO (OR SLIDE)

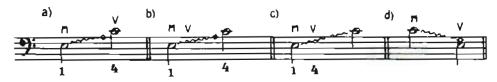
The glissando is achieved by lightly sliding a particular finger of the left hand over a particular string as it is bowed, using only enough force to barely allow the string to touch the fingerboard. The glissando not only serves as an important means of tying tones together but is also a technical device useful in facilitating position changes, making it possible to control the leaping distance that a particular finger travels between two positions. One could even say that good intonation practices, when changing position, can only be acquired through the aid of the glissando.

During the glissando's execution, the string must not be pressed too hard for such an action would act as a brake on finger movement and make the transitions from tone to tone seem to proceed in fits and starts. Instead, at the moment of the transition's beginning, string pressure is lessened and then is increased again immediately before the aimed-for note.

The glissando may be a rising figure from a lower to a higher position, or conversely, it may be a falling one from higher to lower.

The rising glissando is performed in two ways, as illustrated in examples (a), (b) and (c), below: First, as a "starting" glissando by the leading finger that plays the tone from which we start; or, second, as an "ending" glissando by the landing finger that plays the tone to which we proceed. The "starting" glissando may be played on one bow, that of the first note, as in example (a); or on two bows, as in example (b): here, the first note is attacked on the first bow and the glissando is executed on the second bow which also serves for the aimed-for note. The "ending" glissando may be played only on two bows with the second serving for the execution of the shift as well as to hide its sound; this is shown in example (c).

The falling glissando can only be performed as a "starting" glissando on one bow, as in example (d).



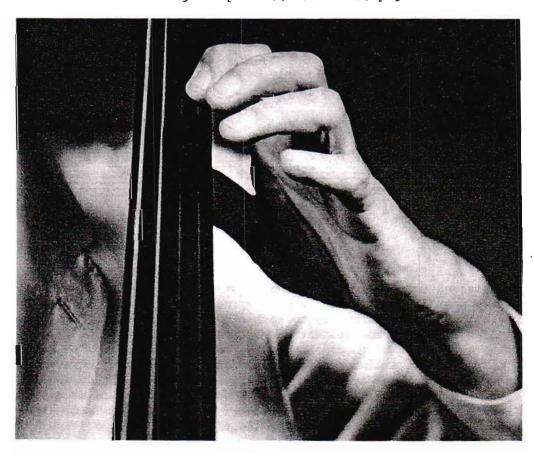
(see illustration, p.68)

At first, in order to strengthen the fingers and enable them to perform glissandi correctly, all fingers (other than the shifting finger) that are normally on a string when playing a note should be raised but kept in the same relationship to each other during the shift to the following note. After the student has attained a certain facility in performing a shift, the fingers behind the shifting finger can be kept on the string but at diminished pressure. During the shift, however, full pressure must be kept against the string by the bow. During the shifting period, the fingers also, of course, shift into the new relationships required by the new position, the distances between fingers being smaller in the higher positions than in the lower ones.

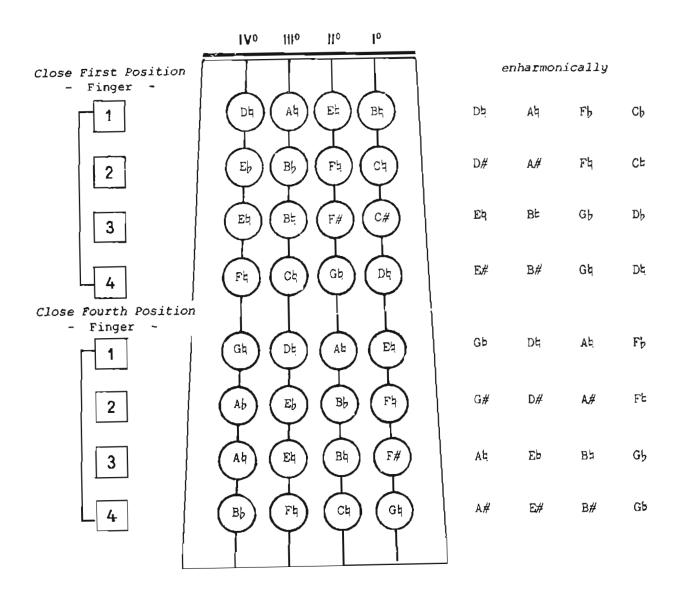
The glissando is regularly performed toward the end of the first note in a position shift, thereby shortening its written duration because the second note must be played exactly at its intended place in the measure. In order that one should not fall into the habit of shortening the first note too much, the glissando shift should first be played in as slow a tempo as needed to produce the correct durational values for the first note, the glissando, and the second note. As the pupil attains more facility, a shorter and shorter glissando should be attempted until such security is achieved that the position shift, a flexible glissando, and a release of bow pressure against the string during its production, all can be performed at any specified tempo in a manner that meets all methodical requirements.

All shifts are to be practiced with a full tone and distinct changes of bow. However, do not permit left-hand problems to adversely influence right hand facility, or allow the arm, elbow and hand-axis movements necessary for position changes to become confused with the finger actions within a position itself. As a preliminary exercise to the following chapters, the exercise below should be performed with the cited fingerings.

Illustrating Examples a), b) and c), page 67



SHIFTING FROM THE FIRST TO THE FOURTH POSITION BY MEANS OF AN OPEN STRING



In the following exercises, only the specified fingers drop upon the string in a "leaping" effect. The other fingers remain in the air above their specified places on the fingerboard. As the return to the open string is played in each sequence, the thumb slides along the neck together with the other fingers preparatory to playing the next note. When dropping the first and fourth fingers, the student should make sure that the forearm muscles do not participate in the action; the fingers should be exclusively moved by their own muscles. Also, the student should continuously bear in mind the differences in stretch distance between the fingers in the first and fourth positions.



SHIFTING FROM THE FIRST TO THE FOURTH POSITION BY MEANS OF THE GLISSANDO

A. Finishing the Shift with the Same Finger

In the following exercises, finger pressure is decreased immediately before the shift, but only to the point where slight contact is still made between the string and the fingerboard. The finger, continuously employing the same degree of weak pressure as it slides over the string to its new position, should feel both comparatively weightless yet dynamically vibrant. At the moment the finger reaches its new position, pressure is again applied to the string with that degree of force necessary to produce a full tone.



At first, these exercises should be performed upon the second string since it is the one best suited for easy assimilation of the techniques involved. In addition, practicing them and the variation above, plus all subsequent glissando exercises on all strings, as shown below, will enable the student to derive their maximum benefits more easily.

B. Shifts Employing Different Fingers

Shifting from a Lower Finger in the Lower Position to an Upper Finger in the Higher Position, and Vice Versa:

In a rising glissando, immediately before the *lower finger*, sliding from its lower position, arrives at its place in the higher position, the *upper finger* percussively drops upon its assigned place next to it and, thus, interrupts the glissando.

In a falling glissando, immediately before the sliding upper finger, in its upper position, has arrived at its place in the lower position, it leaves the string, and leaps into the air, thus interrupting its glissando with a weak pizzt, as the lower finger drops precisely and perpendicularly upon its assigned place next to it.

The small, diamond shaped "neighboring" notes in the exercises below are the normal notes upon which the particular shifting fingers involved would fall in the position toward which the hand is moving. They serve as a concrete, convenient aiming point to accurately determine the new position.



Shifting from an Upper Finger in the Lower Position to a Lower Finger in the Higher Position, and Vice Versa:

In a rising glissando, immediately before the *lower finger*, sliding from its lower position, arrives at its place in the higher position, the *upper finger* (whose pressure on the string has been gradually decreased from the beginning of the lower-finger slide) leaves the string and leaps into the air, thus interrupting the lower finger's glissando with a weak pizz+.

In a falling glissando, when the lower finger, sliding from its upper position, reaches and then passes the aimed-for note's place on the fingerboard, the upper finger (which has been poised in the air) drops perpendicularly and percussively upon that place, thus interrupting the lower finger's glissando. At the same time all of the fingers lower than the percussive finger (not only the sliding one), fall into the normal pattern required by the new position. When this is done at a high enough speed, the lower neighboring note is not heard.



All of the exercises above should be performed with the following variations:



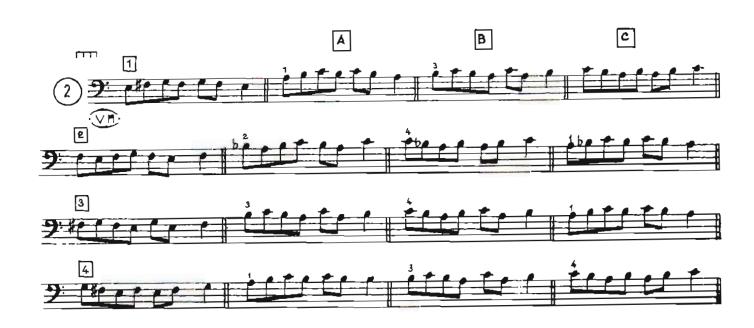
CHAPTER 19

THE SIXTEEN POSSIBLE GLISSANDI ON ONE STRING WHEN SHIFTING FROM THE FIRST TO THE FOURTH POSITION

Play the following exercises so that each one begins with the appropriate figure in first position, and then shifts successively to those figures under letters A, B, C, and D immediately following on the same staff.

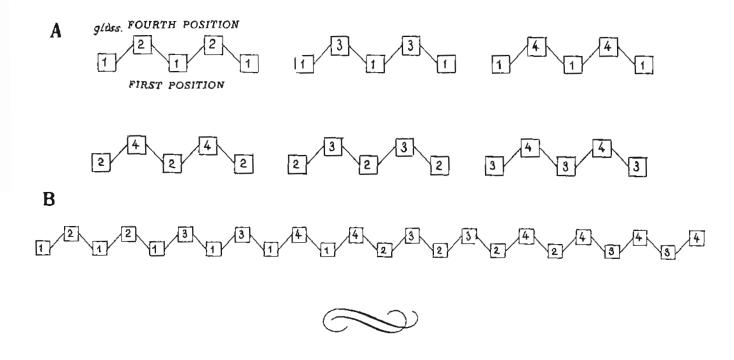
For preliminary study, however, the exercises should be practiced in the variations below, the shifts being performed during the rests tacked on to the last note of the figure in first position.





EXERCISES FOR ELBOW FLEXIBILITY USING FIRST TO FOURTH POSITION GLISSANDO SHIFTS

These exercises should be performed without pausing on any part of the string, using continuous alternating glissandi and percussive movements. Particular attention should be paid to the perpendicular fall of the fingers and to the release and reapplication of finger pressure. These exercises are also valid for all other position changes.



CHAPTER 21

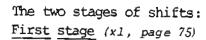
EXERCISES FOR CORRECT FINGER POSTURE DURING POSITION SHIFTS

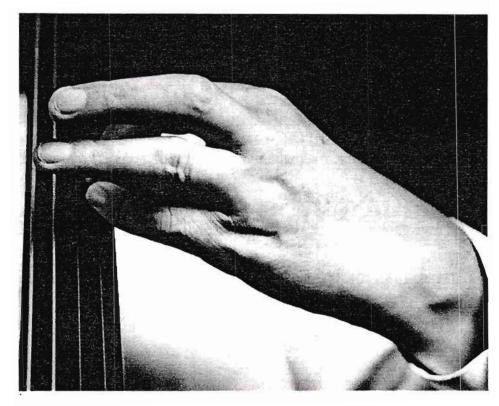
In the following exercises, special care must be taken to preserve the perpendicular posture of the fingers as the shift from first to fourth position is accomplished, with extra attention paid to the distances between fingers two and three in either position. Visually, the inner side of the forearm and the first finger form a straight line. During the shift, the lever formed in this fashion must never be bent at the wrist.

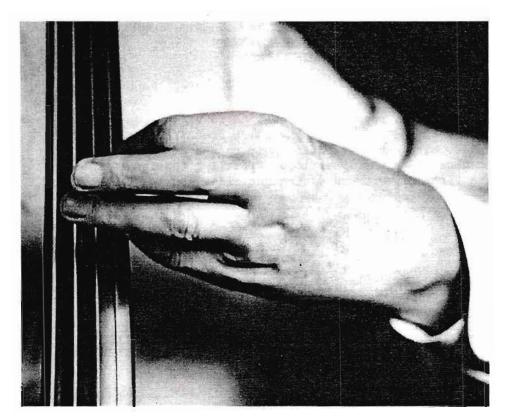


x1: From this point on, the second and third fingers must remain poised in the air, in order not to interfere with the sliding finger.

- x2: At this point, the fourth finger must drop perpendicularly upon the string.
- x3: After the first finger slides back to its first-position E, the third and fourth finger must be sure to drop simultaneously and perpendicularly upon the string.





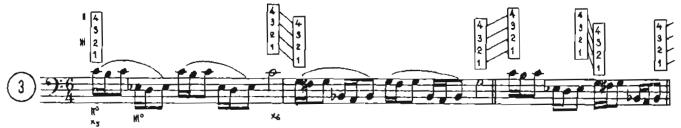


The two stages of shifts: Second stage (x2. page 76)

(For an illustration of x3, page 76, see the photograph preceding page 4: "Stretch and distances in the first position.")



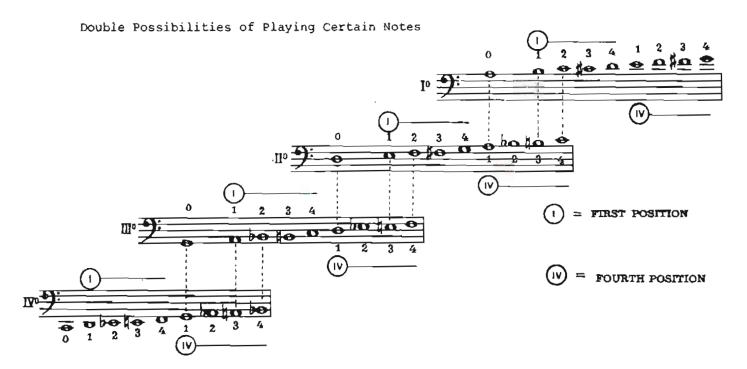
x4: The specified fingers must drop firmly, perpendicularly and simultaneously upon the string. The student should be continuously aware of the distances between the second and third fingers.



- x5: At this point all fingers must remain upon the string for as long a period as possible.
- x6: All four fingers must participate in the glissando. Particular attention must be paid to the varying distance relationships among the fingers when shifting position.



RELATIONSHIPS BETWEEN THE FIRST AND FOURTH POSITIONS



THE HALF POSITION

Though the half position has the widest stretches of any position on the fingerboard - because it is the one where the hand is nearest the scroll - the hand is placed on the fingerboard with the fingers in the same relation to each other as in the first position but a half-step lower.

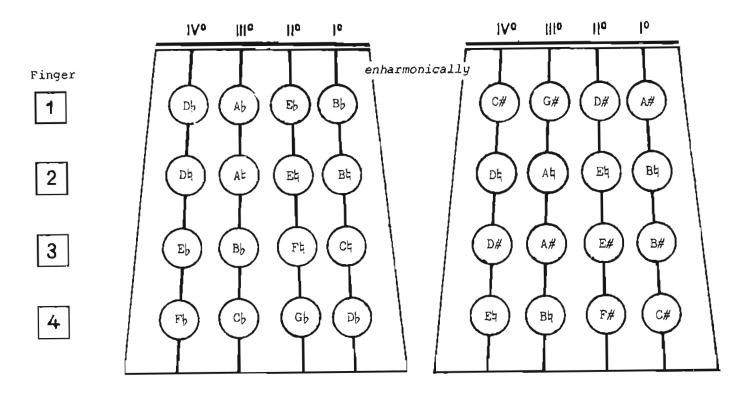
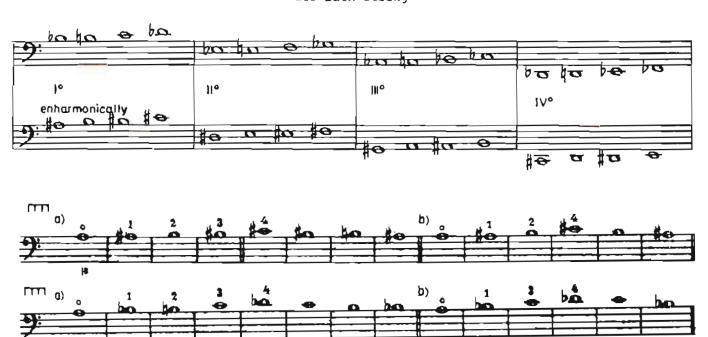
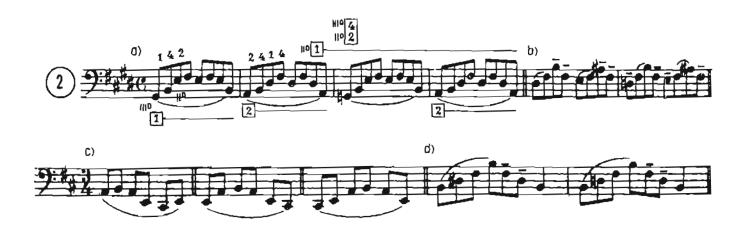


Table of Enharmonic Equivalent Fingerings for Each String











CHAPTER 23

THE FIRST AND THE RAISED (OR EXTENDED) FIRST POSITIONS

These positions include some of the more difficult and troublesome of the ordinary stretches (that is, up to a whole tone) on the finger-board. One must be careful not to injure any portion of the hand - especially the tendons between the first and second fingers - in placing the first finger on the string. The smaller and more delicate the hand, the greater the danger. One must be patient and know that it will take time for the first finger to adjust to this stretch.

A. The Close and Open First Positions

It must be emphasized that if the first finger moves, it should move away from the second finger/thumb axis and not the reverse since this would set the hand into an awkward placement. By placing the hand in the close first position and stretching the first finger a half-step back, the hand is in the diminished first position. In so doing, the first finger should be straight and not curved. The thumb does not change placement.

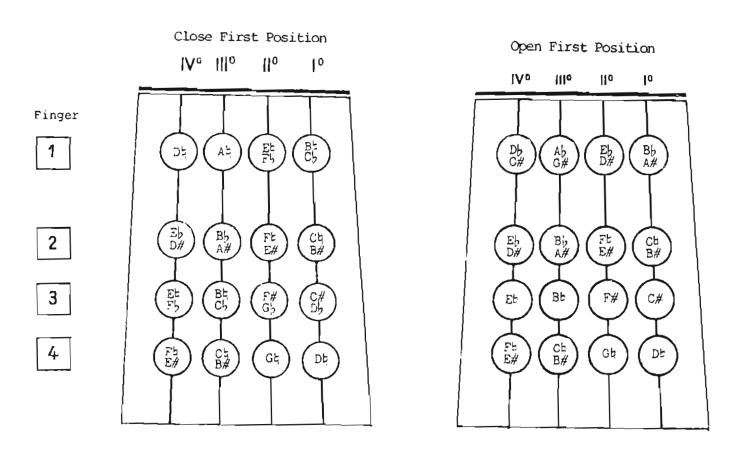


Table of Enharmonic Equivalent Fingerings for Each String

Close First Position



Open First Position



Exercises for shifting from the close first to the open first position by raising the first finger obliquely and dropping it a half-step lower



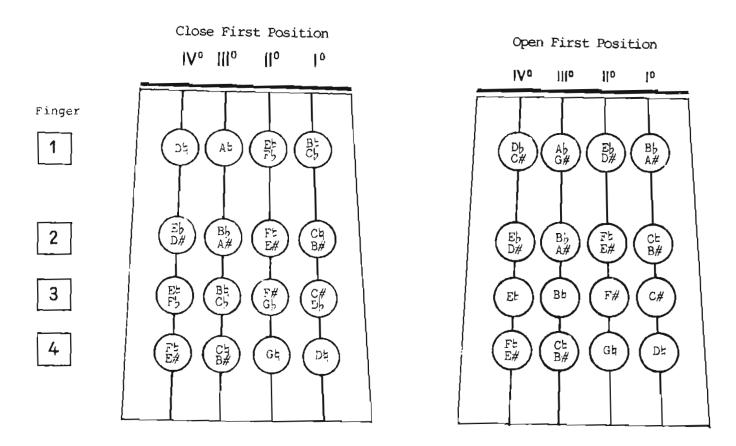
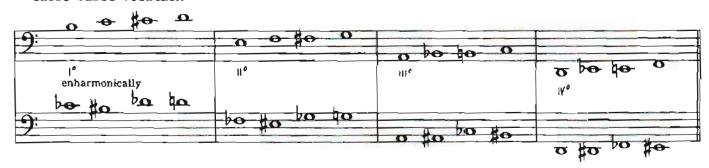


Table of Enharmonic Equivalent Fingerings for Each String

Close First Position



Open First Position



Exercises for shifting from the close first to the open first position by raising the first finger obliquely and dropping it a half-step lower



B. The Raised or Extended First Position

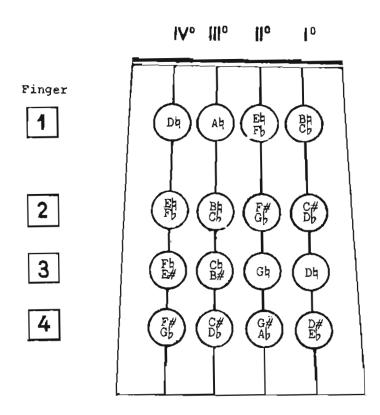
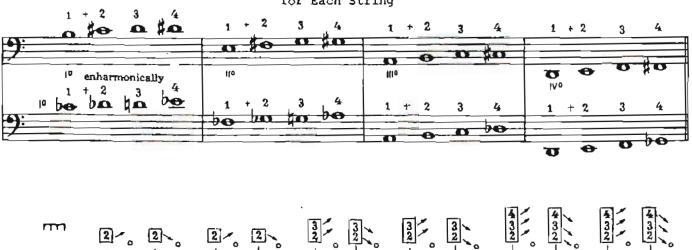


Table of Enharmonic Equivalent Fingerings for Each String





THE CLOSE AND THE RAISED (OR EXTENDED) SECOND POSITIONS

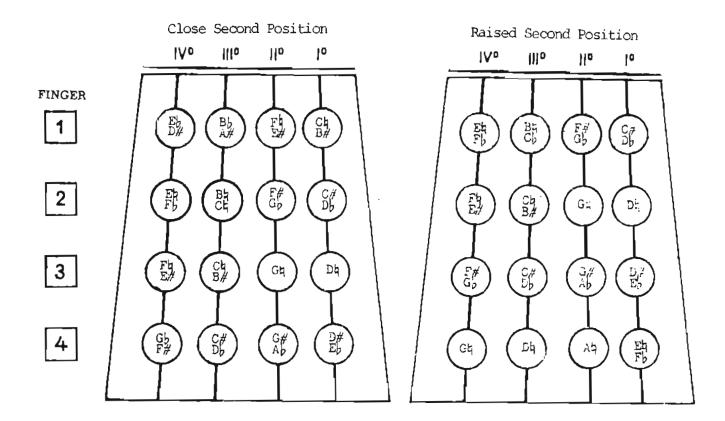


Table of Enharmonic Equivalent Fingerings for Each String

Close Second Position



Raised Second Position



B. The Raised or Extended First Position

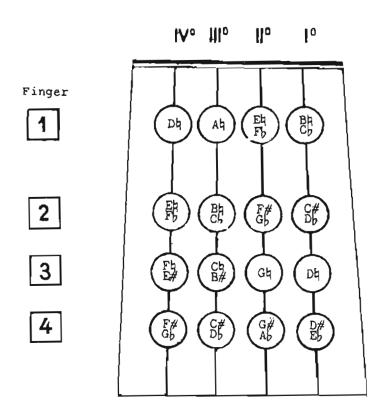
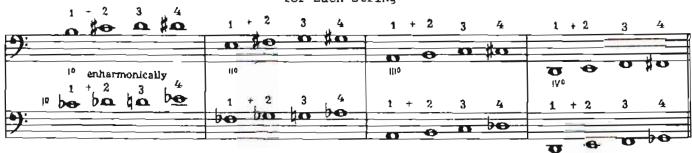


Table of Enharmonic Equivalent Fingerings for Each String





THE CLOSE AND THE RAISED (OR EXTENDED) SECOND POSITIONS

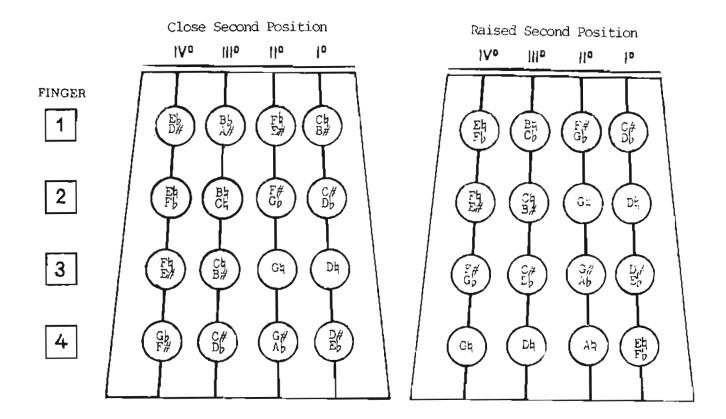
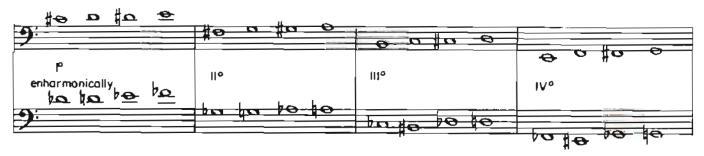


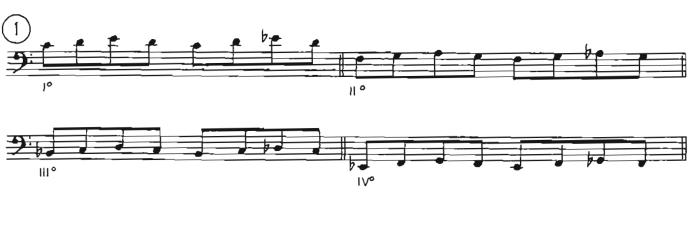
Table of Enharmonic Equivalent Fingerings for Each String

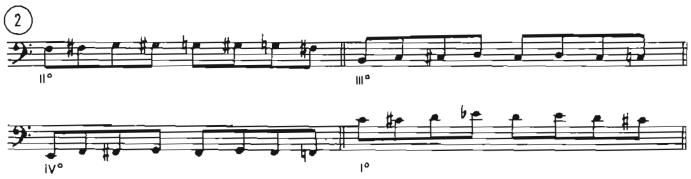
Close Second Position

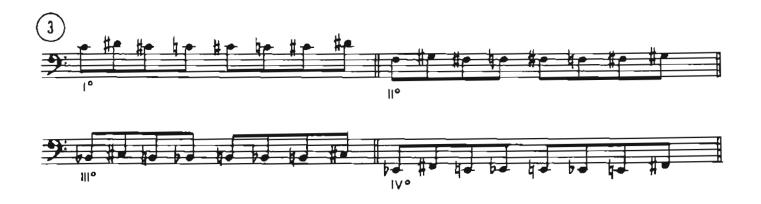


Raised Second Position











THE CLOSE AND RAISED (OR EXTENDED) THIRD POSITIONS

A. The Close Third Position

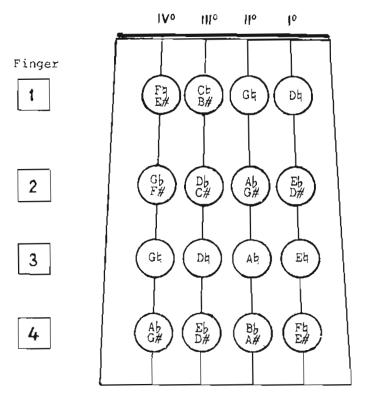
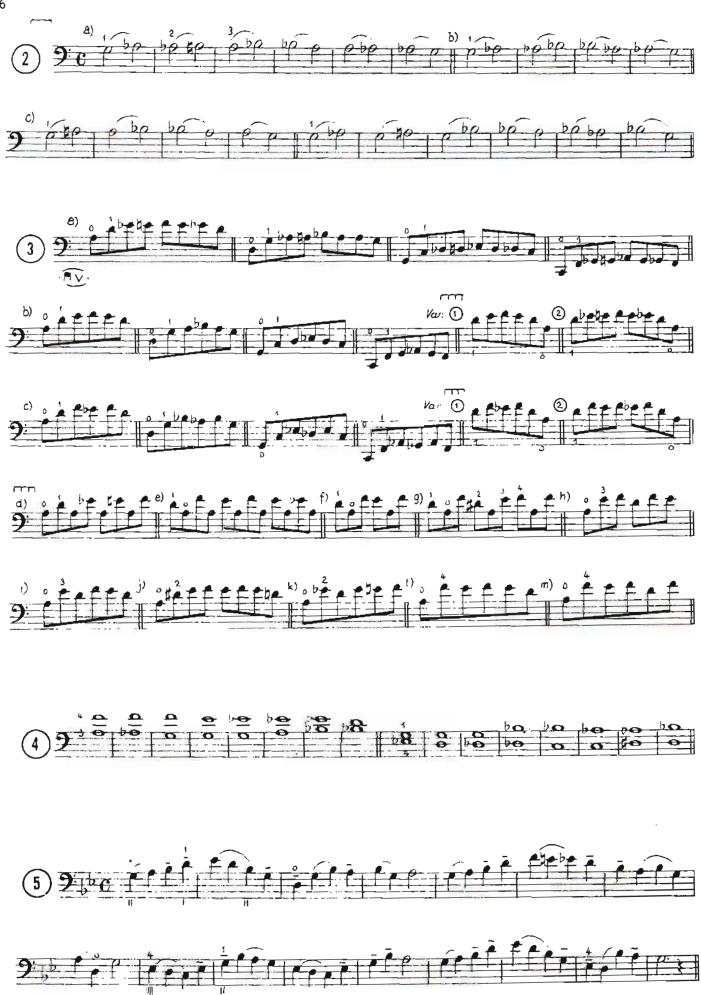


Table of Enharmonic Equivalent Fingerings for Each String







B. The Raised or Extended Third Position

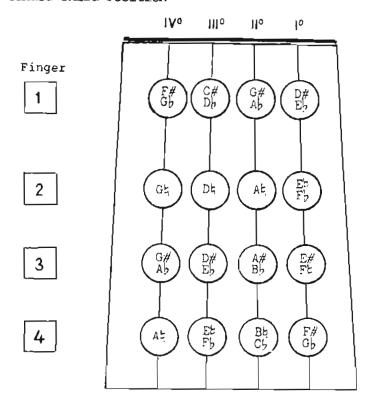


Table of Enharmonic Equivalent Fingerings for Each String



CHAPTER 26

SHIFTING FROM THE CLOSE THIRD TO THE OPEN FOURTH POSITION AND BACK AGAIN

A. Shifting Position while Alternately Expanding and Contracting Stretches



x1: While the first finger is shifting up a semitone, the other fingers, with a quick and elastic movement, also move upward a whole tone above their original position.

At x2, the entire process is reversed.

B. A Preparatory Exercise for a Whole-Tone Shift without Expanding the Stretch between the First and Second Fingers



C. Expanding the Stretch between the First and Second Fingers while Alternately Shifting the Second and Fourth Fingers a Whole Tone



- x3: The first finger does not move during the second-finger shift.
- x4: At this point, be sure that the other fingers move a whole tone while the first finger only moves a semitone.

D. A Preparatory Exercise for Shifting the Entire Hand a Whole Tone through Finger Substitutions on the Same Notes without Expanding the Usual Stretch



E. Expanding the Stretch between the First and Second Fingers while Shifting Position by Alternately Substituting the Second Finger for the First or the Fourth Finger for the Second on the Same Notes



- x5: The other fingers move away from the first finger when the substitution occurs.
- x6: The first finger shortens the stretch between it and the second finger when the substitution occurs.
- F. Shifting Position and Expanding the Usual Stretch by Obliquely Dropping the First or Fourth Fingers a Half or Whole Tone Higher or Lower



- x7: As the first finger slides a semitone upward, the other fingers, together with the thumb, rise in the air, and with a sudden motion, expand the stretch to a whole tone.
- x8: The stretch is contracted to a half tone in the reverse of the manner employed in x7.
- x9: Be sure that the first finger only slides a semitone downward as the fourth finger slides a whole tone.

Special Note to the Student

In order to employ the third finger in all exercises in this chapter, these studies should also be practiced in the form of their enharmonic equivalents.

CHAPTER 27

SHIFTING FROM THE FOURTH INTO THE RAISED THIRD POSITION, AND BACK AGAIN, THROUGH FINGER SLIDES, SUBSTITUTIONS AND STRETCHES

Special Note to the Student

The relationship between the raised third position and the fourth is the same as that between the half position and the first.



Various Shifts between Two Strings





Where there are two string symbols in this and subsequent examples, the student may elect to play on either string with the appropriate fingerings.



CHAPTER 28

THE CLOSE AND OPEN FOURTH POSITIONS

In the fourth position, the distances between fingers are naturally smaller than in the first position but the relationships between the fingers remain the same.

A. The Close Fourth Position

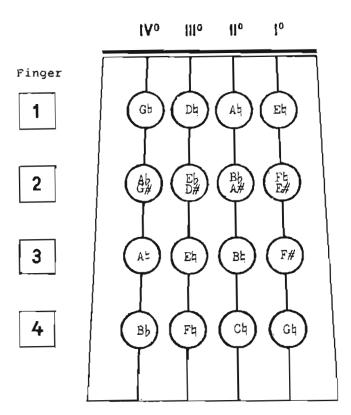
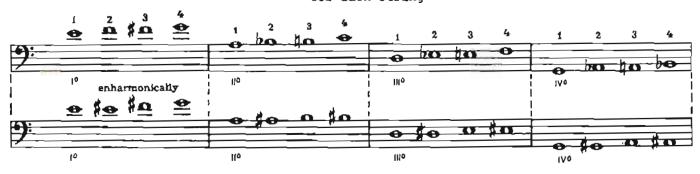


Table of Enharmonic Equivalent Fingerings for Each String



- b. SHITTING ITON the upen First Position into the Close Fourth Position
 - (a) with the same finger



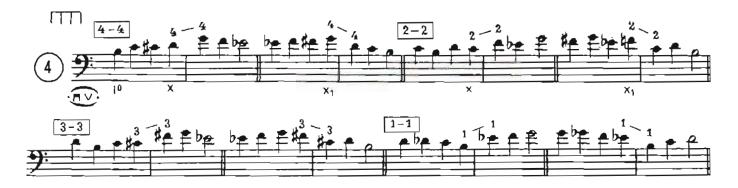
(h) from the lower to the upper finger



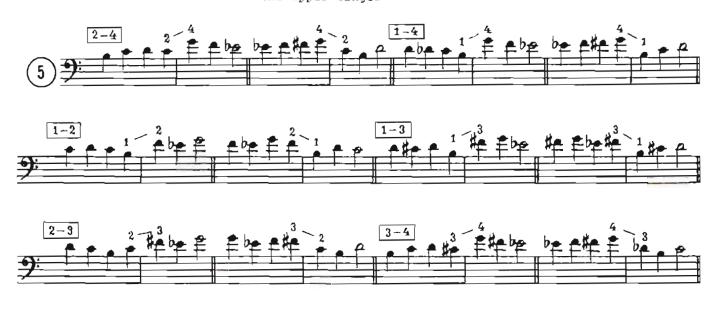
(c) from the upper to the lower finger



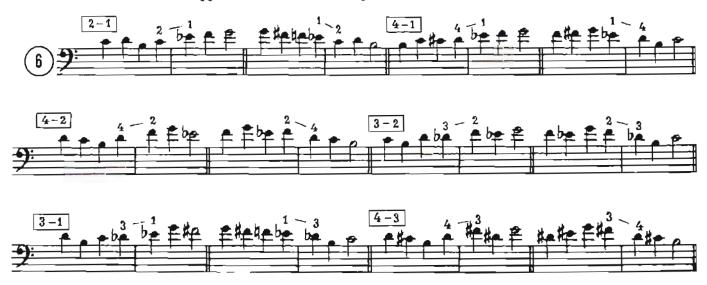
- C. Shifting from the Close First Position into the Open Lowered Fourth Position
 - (a) with the same finger



(b) from the lower to the upper finger



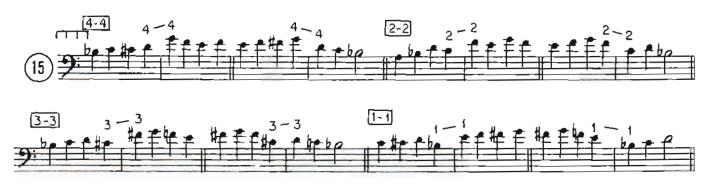
(c) from the upper to the lower finger



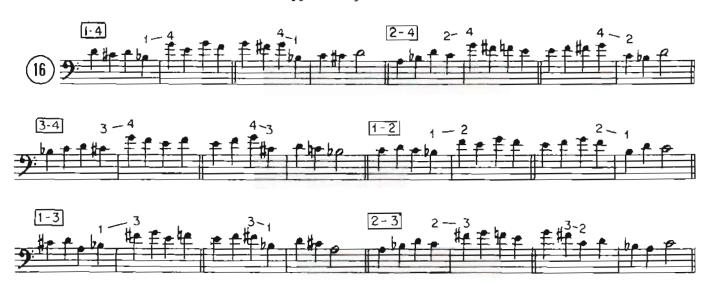
D. Exercises in Shifting from the Raised First Position to the Close Fourth Position on the Second String



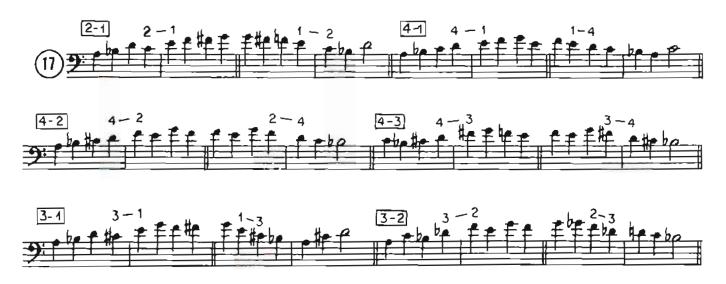
- E. Further Exercises in Shifting from the Open First Position to the Close Fourth Position
 - (a) with the same finger



(b) from the lower to the upper finger



(c) from the upper to the lower finger



If the enharmonic equivalents on the lower line above are not played in equal-tempered intonation, the fingers which play the altered notes - the E#, the A#, the B#, the D#, etc. - will lie somewhat nearer the bridge than they would when playing the unaltered ones. That is, the E# will be higher in pitch than the FM, the A# higher than the BM, the BM higher than the CM, etc.



F. The Open Fourth Position

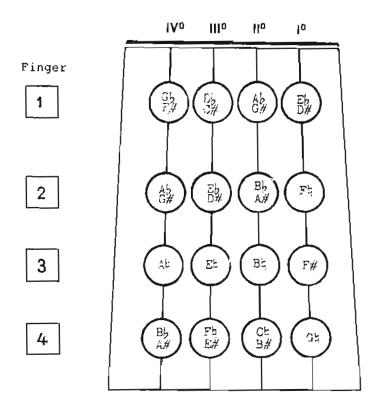


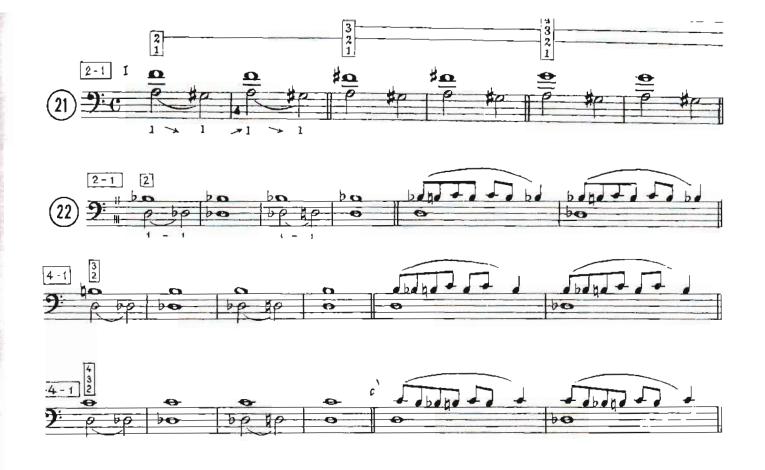
Table of Enharmonic Equivalent Fingerings for Each String



Although both are considered normal stretches, greater effort and physiological difficulty are, nevertheless, involved in correctly mastering the open stretch than the close one in the fourth position. The main difficulty is in the necessity of the first finger - though at a whole tone removed from the other fingers - being able to retain (1) its perpendicular relationship to the plane of the fingerboard, and (2) its ability to touch the string in the same way and with almost the same part of the finger as it does in close position.

To achieve this, the arch line of the other fingers from the knuckles to the tips must be lowered in relation to the fingerboard and made flatter. Of course, the internal relationships of the fingers to each other remain the same after the line is lowered. The thumb arch also flattens out, moving in tandem with the knuckles.

It is possible to move from the close to the open position in two ways: by raising the first finger obliquely and dropping it perpendicularly, or by sliding it along the string.



G. Exercises in Shifting from the Close First Position to the Open Fourth Position on the Second String





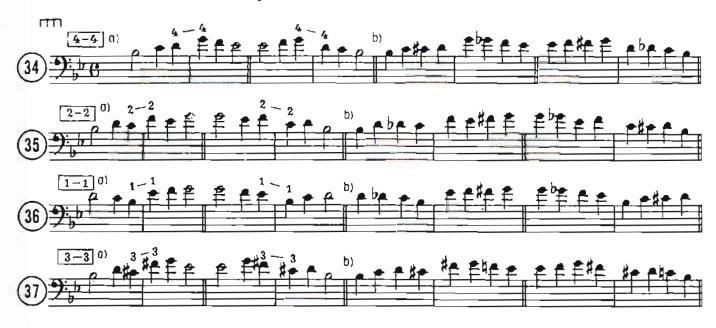
H. Exercises in Shifting from the Close First Position to the Open Fourth Position on the First String



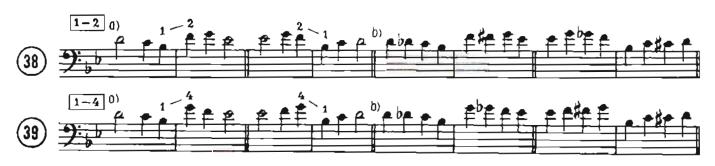
(c) from the upper to the lower finger



- I. Further Exercises in Shifting from the Open First Position to the Open Fourth Position
 - (a) with the same finger



(b) from the lower to the upper finger





(c) from the upper to the lower finger



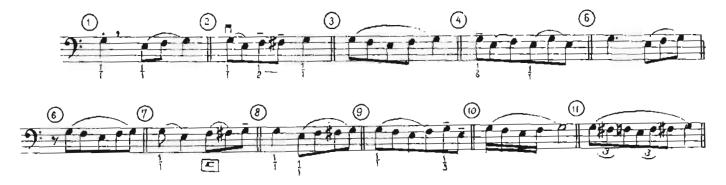
Remember that at the shift the thumb of the left hand remains always in contact with the fingerboard, and that all the fingers are constantly in a vertical posture!

J. Exercises for Transferring the Close and Open Stretches of the First or Fourth Fingers from the First into the Fourth Position



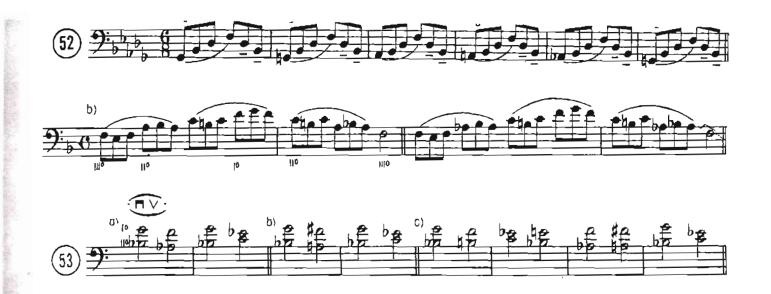


Variations for the bars:



K. Variations on the Previous Exercises





L. Various Shifts to the Fourth Position







M. The Raised Fourth Position

Because of the construction of the cello's neck, it is not possible to keep the thumb precisely below the second finger in this position.

This, therefore, may properly be counted as one of the higher positions since one of their characteristics involves moving the fingers away from the thumb.

Finger

1

2

3

4

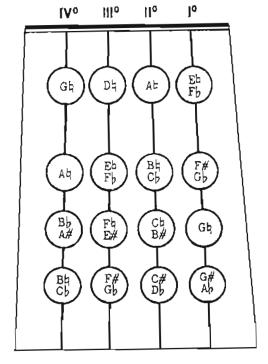
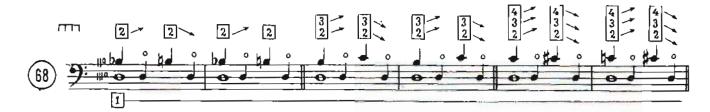


Table of Enharmonic Equivalent Fingerings
for Each String

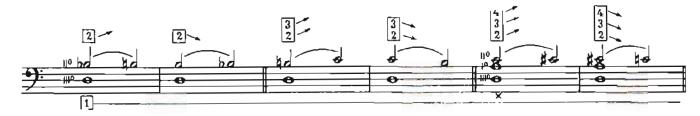


N. Changing from the Close Fourth Position to the Open Raised Fourth Position

. . . by raising the second, third and fourth fingers obliquely (during the rest), and dropping them vertically.



Shifts by sliding the second, third and fourth fingers



x) from this sign onwards, we play on strings I and II, but the first finger remains on string III where it has been before.



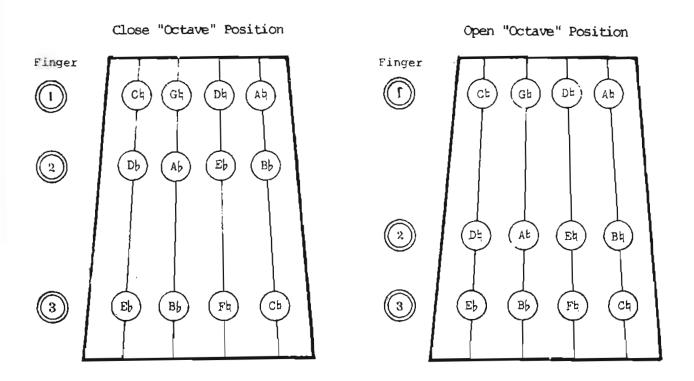
The Upper Positions and their Approach through Finger Extension Changes

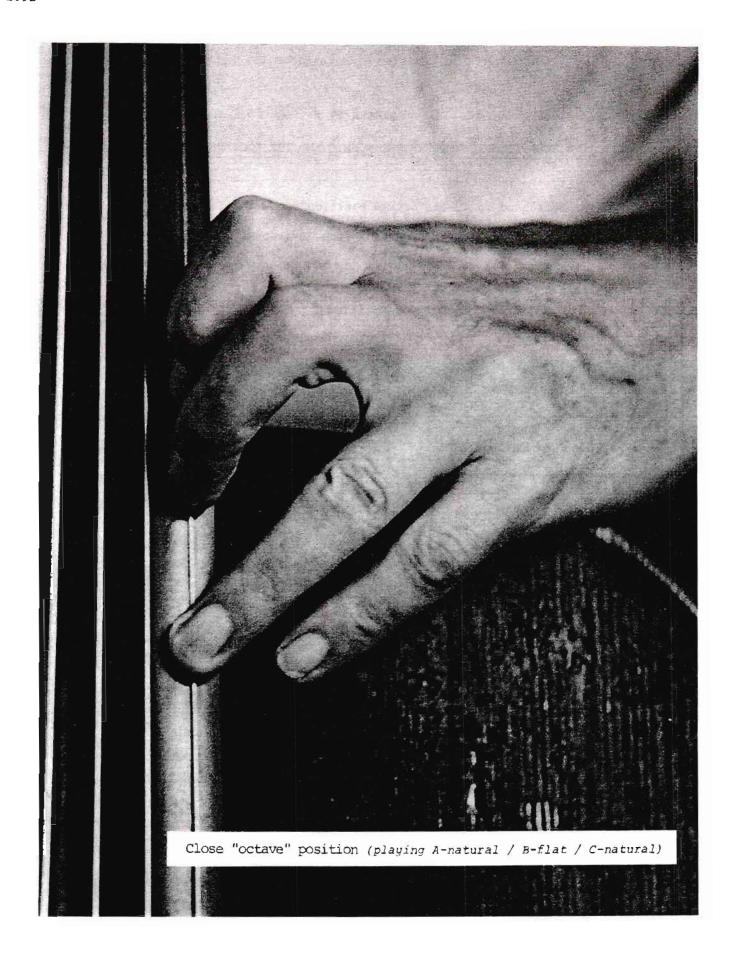
CHAPTER 29

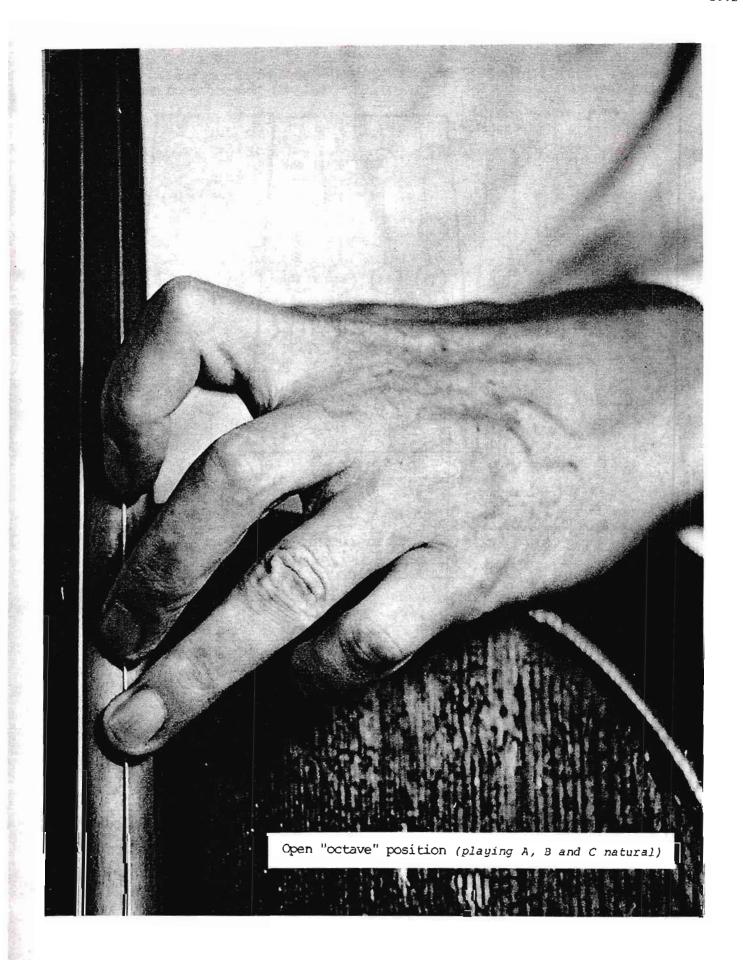
THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE FOURTH AND THE "OCTAVE" POSITIONS

The left hand is in an "octave position" when the first finger is placed on the note an octave above the open string tuning. The relationship between fingers is the same as in the lower positions previously discussed.

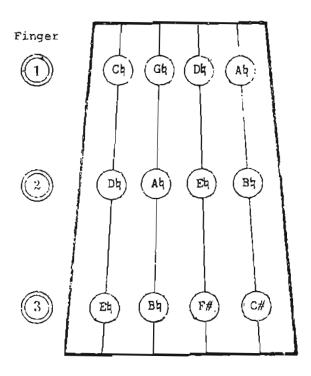
A. The Close, Open and Extended "Octave" Positions

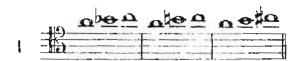




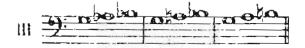


Extended "Octave" Position

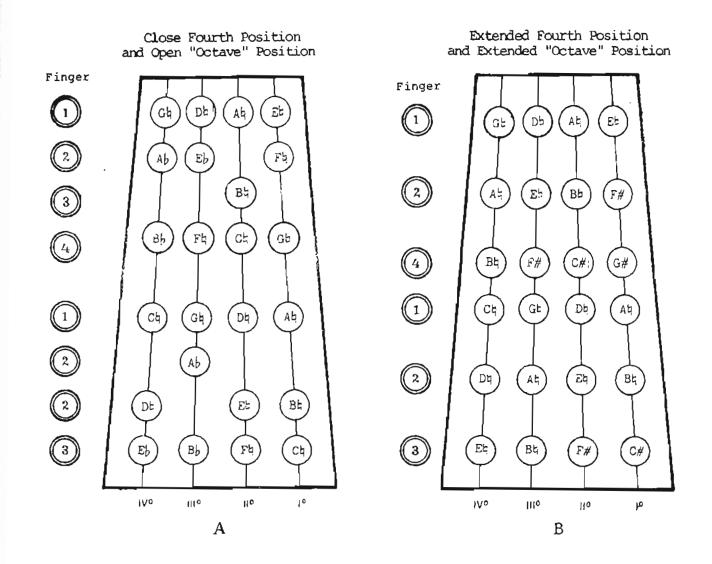








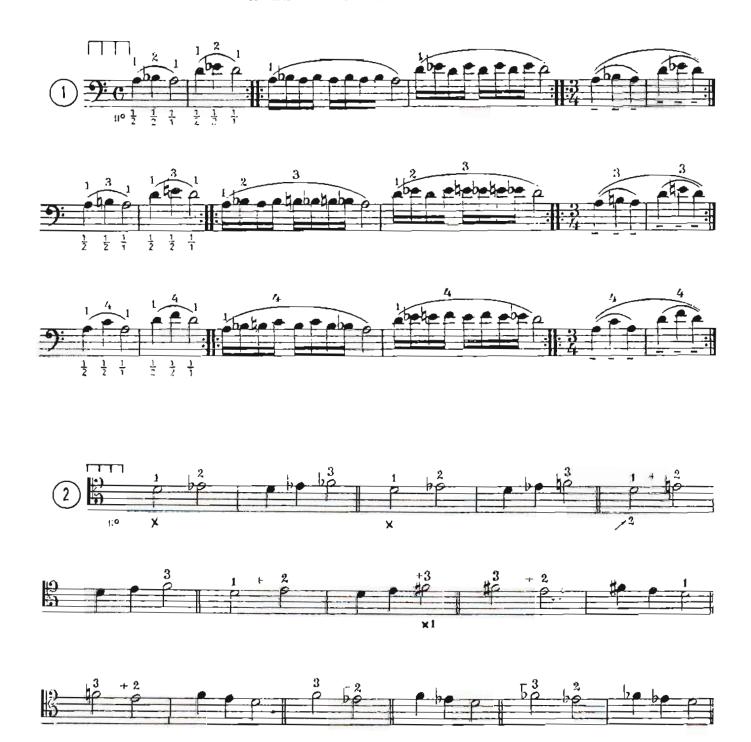








PREPARATORY EXERCISES FOR THE CORRECT PLACEMENT OF THE LEFT HAND IN "OCTAVE" POSITION



x: Rather than wait to attack the F on its regular beat, the third finger moves higher when the first finger hits the first note of the first measure.



X: Rather than wait to attack the note on its regular beat, move the third finger higher at the same time that the first note in the bar is played.

Variation



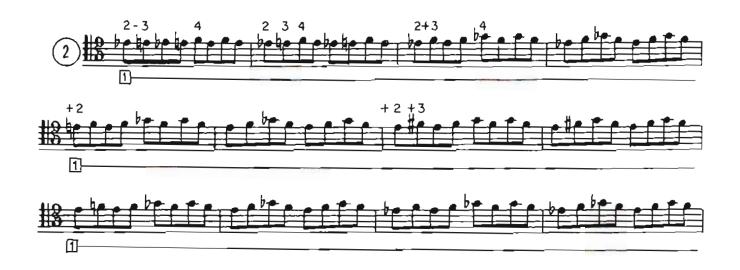
CHAPTER 31

EXTENSION EXERCISES EMPLOYING THE FOURTH FINGER

Repeat each two bars, then the entire exercise.



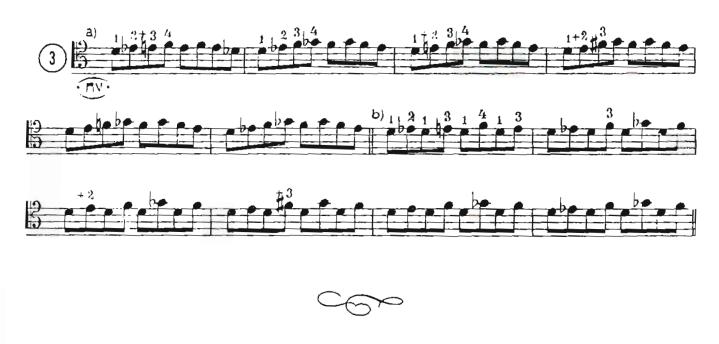
X: The second finger shifts its placement after the first note of the first measure.



Variation



In the exercise below, practice every bar separately, then the whole exercise.



CHAPTER 32

EXERCISES FOR EXTENSION CHANGES BETWEEN THE SECOND AND THIRD FINGERS

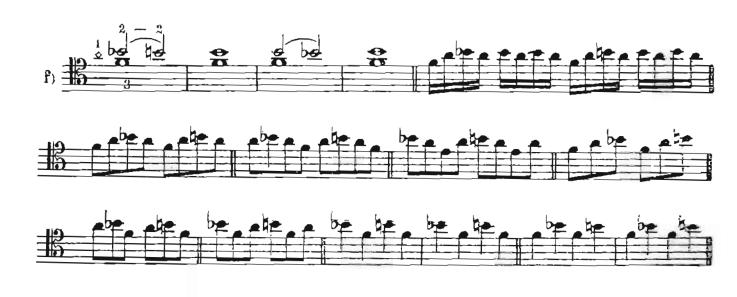


*: While the second finger slides at this point, the third finger remains fixed so that its relationship to the first finger is augmented by a half-tone.

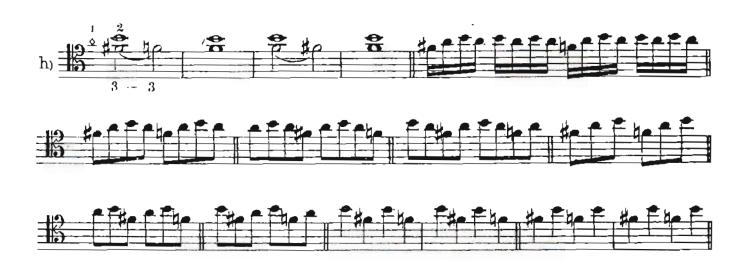


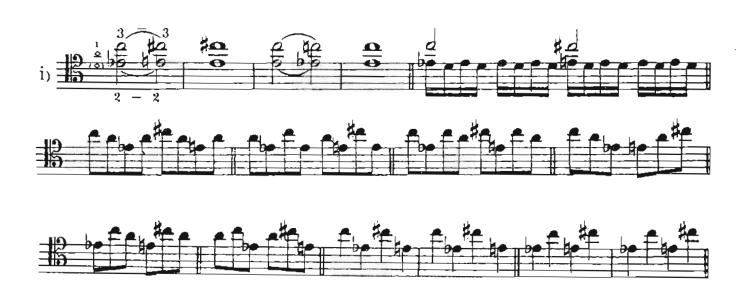






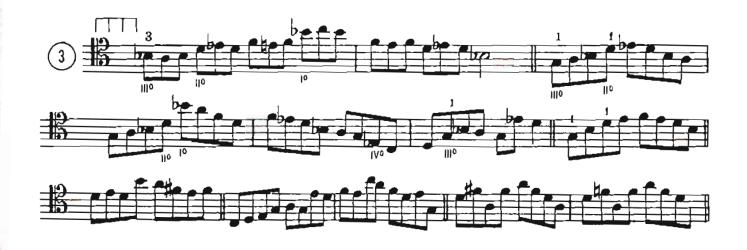








Keeping the silent fingers on the diamond-shaped notes insures that the fingers remain in their proper relationship to each other.



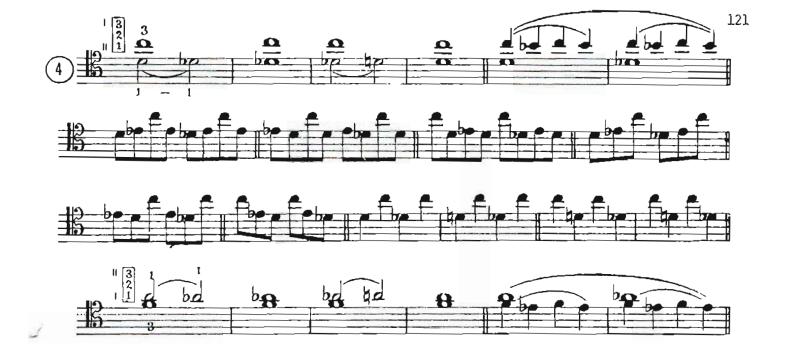
Special Note to the Student

Where possible, the exercises from 1 to 3 should be practiced with the first finger on the following whole notes:



SHIFTING THE FIRST FINGER WHILE KEEPING A WHOLE-TONE STRETCH BETWEEN FINGERS TWO AND THREE







CHAPTER 34

OCTAVE LEAPS USING AN INTERMEDIATE MAJOR OR MINOR SIXTH AS A BRIDGE



EXERCISES FOR OCTAVE-LEAP SECURITY





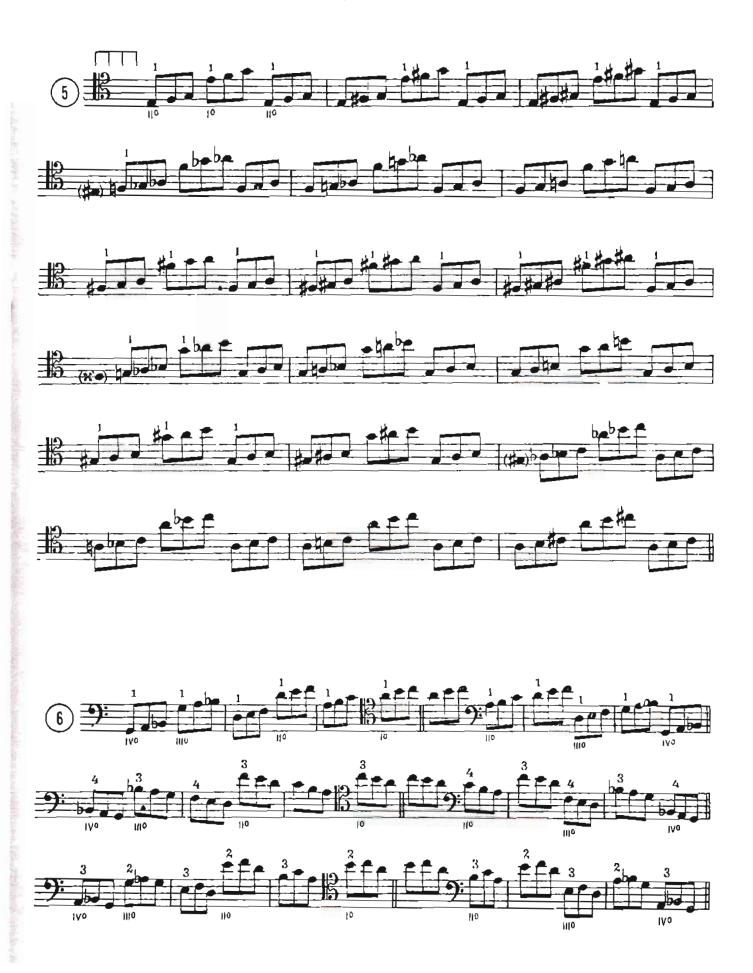


CHAPTER 36

SIMULTANEOUS POSITION AND STRING CHANGES, SOMETIMES USING OCTAVE LEAPS













Practice the exercises and variations above with the following patterns:



Further Variations Combining the Lower and Upper Positions



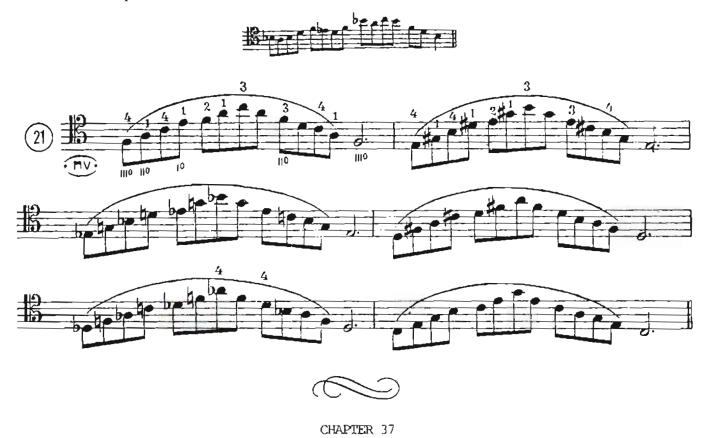
Also practice the variations above with these patterns:







Also practice the variations above with this pattern:

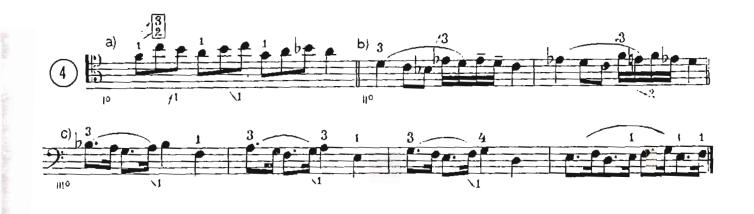


STRETCH EXTENSIONS BETWEEN FINGERS
TO THE INTERVAL OF A FOURTH ON THE SAME OR DIFFERENT STRINGS





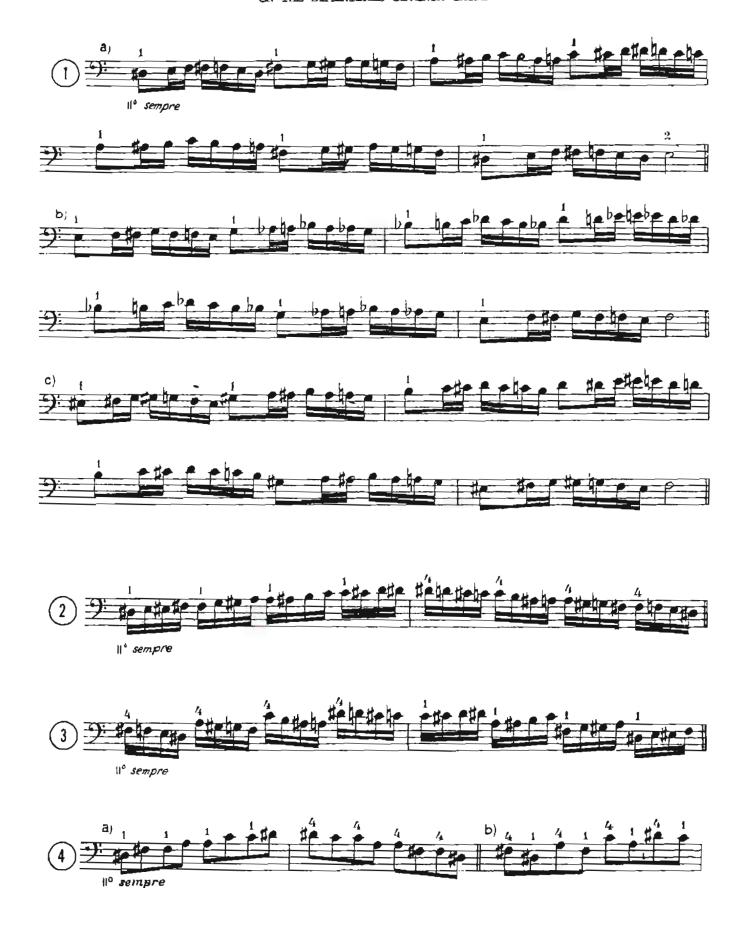








EXERCISES IN PLAYING CHROMATIC SCALES AND ARPEGGIOS ON THE DIMINISHED SEVENTH CHORD

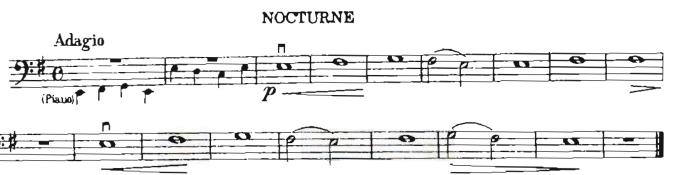




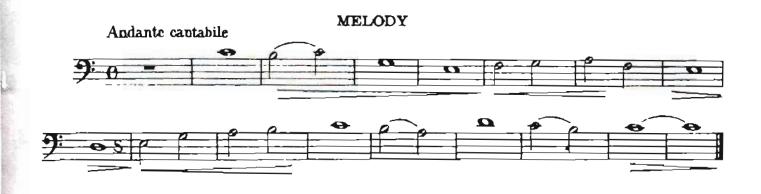


CELLO PART for Eleven Pieces for Cello and Piano (Book One/Part One)

(These pages may be removed for performance.)

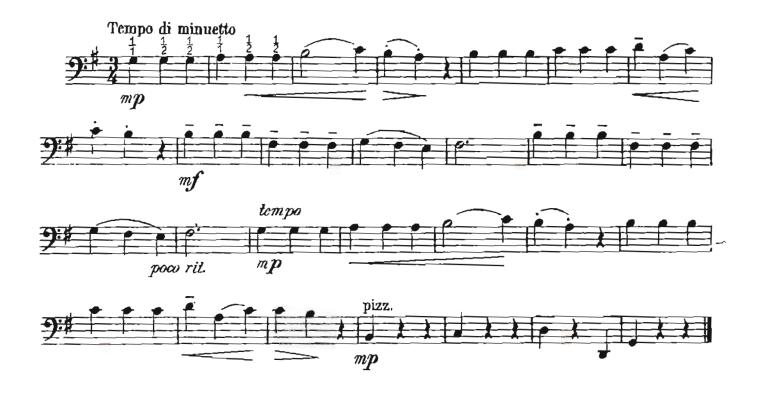








MINUET



ROMANCE





SUNNY DAY



A FOLK SONG





THE WIND SCOURING THE FIELDS



THE COMPLETE CELLIST (The Matz-Aronson Cello Method)

CONTENTS OF BOOK TWO

PART ONE

Advanced Left-Hand Dexterity;
Exercises in Percussive Finger Action
(Including "The Geminiani Grips");
And Other Exercises for Strengthening the Fingers
and Making Them Independent

Percussive Finger Action in Left-Hand Arpeggios

The "Geminiani Grips"

Exercises in Percussive Finger Action on Two and Three Strings in All Positions and Keys Exercises for Finger Independence with One or More Fingers at Rest

Double-Stop Exercises for Memorization of Finger Placement



PART TWO

Further Exercises in Percussive Finger Action

The Sixteen Basic Finger-Changing Patterns on Two Adjacent Strings in Close Position (The Sixteen "Grips")

Suggested Variations on the First and Second Basic Finger-Changing Patterns Further Variations Combining Similar Patterns on the D and A Strings

Variations on Each Pattern on All Four Strings

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A Description of Thumb Position;
Studies in Percussive Action as Preliminaries to Scale Study;
Preliminary Exercises for Scales;
Technical Analyses of Scales and Chords,
and a Systematizing of Major and Minor Scales
According to the Chromatic Series;
A Definition and Illustration of Natural and Artificial Harmonics

Thumb Position

Exercises in which the Sixteen
Basic Finger-Changing Patterns
are Shifted Down and Across
the Fingerboard

Studies in Percussive Action as Preliminaries to Scale Study

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Substituting the Thumb for the Other Fingers
(Making the Thumb a Part of the Hand)

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Further Scale and Arpeggio Studies

Harmonics



PART FOUR

Right-Hand Exercises

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Tonal Aspects of the Six Basic Bowings

Stroke Variants

Daily Exercises for the Elasticity of the Wrist and Forearm Stroke Weights

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Exercises for the Development of the Right Hand

Ampeggios on Four Strings